FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1983

Palestine National Council

A political statement issued by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its concluding session in Algiers and broadcast by Algiers radio declared that the PNC "rejects" the Reagan peace proposal as a sound basis for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause and to the Arab-Israeli conflict because the plan does not respect the established national rights of the Palestinian people and contradicts international law. The PNC declared that the Arab plan adopted in Fes is the "minimum" level for Arab political action and announced that political moves must "complement military action" in order to adjust the balance of forces in favor of the Palestinian struggle. The statement also expressed "appreciation and support" for the Brezhnev plan, which asserts the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The PNC further announced that future relations with Jordan should be formed on the basis of a confederation between two independent states. On contacts with Jewish personalities, the council reaffirmed the PNC's 13th session political declaration and called on the PLO Executive Committee "to study movement in this framework" in accordance with the interests of the Palestinian cause.

The concluding speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat broadcast by Algiers radio discussed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon but did not refer to the Reagan plan or to relations with Jordan. 'Arafat was reelected Executive Committee chairman, the radio also noted. In another development informed sources in Amman disclosed that 'Arafat will visit Jordan in March to resume talks with King Husayn on the Jordanian-Palestinian "political move," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Lebanon

Shamir on Reagan Offer -- Reacting to President Reagan's offer to guarantee Israel's northern border, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel is not asking for U.S. security guarantees in the north and prefers to reach a direct agreement on security arrangements with the Lebanese Government, according to Jerusalem radio. He added that U.S. guarantees could be helpful but that they could not replace an Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

Subcommittee Talks -- The Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. military subcommittee agreed on 22 February that Major Sa'd Haddad's forces would be integrated into the Lebanese Army although Haddad's fate has not yet been decided, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, an Israeli source asserted that agreement on the issues of warning stations, UNIFIL's presence in the security zone, and the pace of normalization will not be achieved in the subcommittees and he said the "large gap" that remains will require involving senior politcal figures, the radio added.

Israel

Arens Appointment -- The Cabinet unanimously approved Prime Minister Begin's proposal to appoint Ambassador Moshe Arens as defense minister, Jerusalem radio announced. Earlier Arens declared that former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will have "no authority whatsoever" over the IDF, the radio reported citing an Arens interview on French television.

Shamir on Egypt, PNC Meeting -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir confirmed that Israel is maintaining contacts with Egypt in order to improve bilateral relations but that Jerusalem "is concerned" over the "courting" of PLO officials by Egyptian Government leaders, IDF Radio noted. Addressing the Jerusalem economic club, Shamir stated that

Israel is ready to discuss Tabah with Egypt but only within the framework of deliberations on "common issues," another IDF Radio report added. Earlier Jerusalem radio cited a senior Egyptian source's "amazement" over Israeli media reports on the intention to resume the bilateral talks on Tabah "this week." The source reiterated that both countries had pledged not to publish details on the matter before the talks resume.

In a later IDF Radio report, Shamir described the PNC resolutions as "resolutions of war" and said that the PLO will not enter Jerusalem via possible negotiations with Jordan.

Sudan-Egypt-Libya

Egyptian President Mubarak and Sudanese President Numayri met in Khartoum for talks on bilateral integration, according to an official statement carried by MENA. After the meeting Numayri told a press conference reported by MENA that they approved measures to further economic and social integration but did not discuss the situation on the Sudanese-Egyptian-Libyan border, although they did mention news reports about the border situation. Asserting that the Libyan "threat" to Sudan is continuing and is unlikely to stop, Numayri revealed that Sudanese authorities recently seized a shipload of Libyan arms intended for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "agents" in Sudan and also intercepted a message from Al-Qadhdhafi ordering his Sudanese associates to postpone their planned coup to give Libya time to end its problems with the United States and Egypt. Mubarak also spoke at the press conference, disclosing that two Libyan planes recently violated Egyptian airspace and reaffirming Egypt's commitment to its joint defense treaty with Sudan. He said the U.S. AWACS planes are in Egypt for training purposes and stated that Egypt did not ask the United States to move the 6th Fleet toward Libya.

Libyan Aircraft Hijacking

The hijacked Libyan Airlines plane remained in Malta while negotiations continued between the hijackers and Maltese authorities, JANA reported on 23 February. Earlier the hijackers released 1 of the 160 hostages aboard the plane, AFP noted.

Gulf Oil Ministers Meeting

The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE discussed current developments in the oil market during two closed meetings in Riyadh, according to SPA reports. Noting that the talks concentrated on prices, the Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, said the talks would continue on 23 February in order to reach agreement. Earlier the Qatari oil minister spoke of the need for a considerable cut in the price of oil while the UAE minister indicated that a price reduction is likely, SPA noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian fighter planes and air defense units shot down an Iraqi aircraft in the Wal Fajr operational zone, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claim, INA announced.

Pakistan

The Sind Government has imposed a curfew in west Karachi and has closed Karachi educational establishments for 2 days in view of the tense situation in the city, Karachi radio reported. Earlier a Karachi administration press statement reported by the radio announced that five people were killed in clashes between rival groups and that a number of others, including seven policemen, were injured. According to AFP, the violence erupted when Sunni extremists attacked Shi'ite mosques and called a general strike to protest police teargassing.

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MATERIALS ON PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

Salah Khalaf Speech

LD201824 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Feb 83

["First part" of speech by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, at 18 February session of PNC in Algiers -- recorded]

[Text] Mr Speaker, sisters and brothers, friends: Please permit me in your name to thank Algeria -- the revolution of 1.5 million martyrs -- for playing host to this congress and also permit me to thank, in the name of all of you, this modest president who sat with the masses and with members of the council and who refused, so as not impose his trusteeship on us, to sit at this rostrum. In our Arab east sometimes we see children stand up in order to lecture us on patriotism and revolution.

Some people have said to me: We feel sorry for you that your turn to speak comes after the honorable brothers who have spoken before. I gave them a simple answer: No one should feel sorry for me because I am a member of the Fatah movement. [applause]

The Fatah movement, which has the honor of starting this revolution and which raised the slogan of armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine, this movement is not afraid of words or slogans. This movement knows where the interest of this people and this nation lay. It knows its friends and its enemies -- enemies in the Arab world and enemies in the international arena. It knows its friends and enemies and knows how to deal with them. It has no (?inferiority complex) in dealing with anyone.

From this reality and this staging point, I will talk in the name of all martyrs, all fighters; in the name of the battle we fought together in Beirut; the battle we fought in An-Nabatiyyah; the battles we fought in Tyre, in Sidon, Ar-Rashidiyyah, and 'Ayn al-Hilwah; in the name of this battle from which no one expected to emerge alive. I wish we had been martyred so that we would not see this Arab reality; I wish we had been martyred [loud cheers and applause] so that we would not see this Arab reality and would not see what is happening to this Arab homeland.

It is true there were some who called on us to commit suicide and achieve martyrdom. However, we asked all those who advised us to commit suicide and martyrdom to come with us to commit suicide with us and be martyred with us. [applause, cheers]

Brothers and sisters, we have come to this council with open hearts and open minds. Before this council convened we held discussions for well over 50 hours as resistance groups. The Beirut battle and the Lebanon battle, with bullets whistling overhead and the enemy wanting us to surrender and wanting to destroy us, united us on the battlefield -- a unity of destiny. The U.S.-made Israeli planes, tanks, and artillery did not differentiate between one group and another, between one citizen and another. We all expected to die honorably.

They offered white and yellow flags. The colors did not confuse us. We knew that white was white, red was red, yellow was yellow, and green was green. We also knew that flags of surrender are not part of the nature of this revolution or of this leadership. We told them that we would die rather than raise a white flag.

This was our stand in Beirut and in all Lebanon. The young, the women, the men fought most gallantly and courageously and not one of us fell behind, neither as groups, individuals, people, nor as factions. All of us fought with honor. We all defended the honor of this Arab nation. We fought with the conviction that we were fighting for a cause and that even if we were martyred, our blood would be the oil to light the torch of freedom and struggle not only in our Arab arena but throughout the world. This was our stand in and after Beirut.

We left Beirut. You all know how we left Beirut. Despite all the voices which wanted to steal this victory from over our heads, and despite all the voices which tried to belittle this great victory, I say to my Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] in a friendly manner that we are not boasting about this war or the fighting. On the contrary, we were overly modest. We remember those mighty battles in which our youth, our fedayeen, our Lebanese brothers, and our Arab brothers -- however few of them there were who fought with us -- fought. We fought because we were convinced that this battle is the battle of the entire Arab nation. As I said, we left for reasons which you all know. It was not our choice to leave; it was for the sake of the children of Lebanon, the children of Palestine, and for the sake of all those who stood fast with us in Beirut that we left.

Our dispersal, which was imposed on us, might be the reason why we do not meet more often, but as I said to my brothers in the Palestinian leadership, if the Lebanon battle and the Beirut battle were not enough to place mutual confidence in our hands and in our hearts, souls, and minds, can we dream of another battle greater than the battle of Beirut to place confidence in our hearts and minds? Has not the time come for us to raise ourselves higher after the great battles that have been fought during this revolution, beginning with the Al-Karamah battle and other battles of honor, small and large, and the Beirut battle, are not these battles enought to unite our hearts, to unite us as one man, one heart?

I have no objection to the question of rejection, but I object to the fact that this council and the brother Arab guests and friends might think that there are some capitulationists, that there some rejectionists, and that there are some who accept. A defeatist logic sometimes inspires this talk. Why do we not raise the issue honestly and honorably? Why do we not speak the truth honorably, and honestly?

My brother, Ahmad Jibril, a while ago, sounded extremist when he talked about Arab reaction, and when he came to the part about a patriotic regime he began talking about reality. It is very nice that Brother Ahmad Jibril should talk about reality when talking about Syria, Libya, and other Arab regimes, but are there criteria for our (?extremist) and our reality? In my opinion, this battle proved that there is a general Arab failure. We must talk about Arab failure.

Syria. Who said that we do not want union or a strategic meeting with Syria? I am one of those who became hoarse, and I will be hoarse again while I talk about Syria. Does Syria accept us as we are? Will Syria accept us with our independent national decision, which contradicts my Brother Ahmad Jibril in his interpretation of this decision? [applause, cheers] Our independent national decision did not mean regionalism. We, in our hearts and souls and precious blood, insist that we are Arabs, part of this Arab nation, this benevolent nation. We have never been regionalists. They said that about us on 1 January 1965. When they want to explain their weakness and failure, they say that we are regionalists. But I will be ready to go to Syria and say: Our independent national decision is on the table and your decision is on the table. Our decision and your decision are for both of us, but our decision is not for you and our decision is the only one on the table. I will participate in a Syrian-Palestinian decision, and I accept that if Brother Ahmad Jibril comes to me with a Syrian decision, I will combine it with the Palestinian decision. I accept this. [applause, cheers] I would accept a Palestinian-Libyan decision if Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would include his oil in the Palestinian decision and if he placed all his potential in the Palestinian decision. [applause, cheers] I accept this. But to say that we are regionalists because we demand that this revolution should have its national and independent decision is (?slander) against the revolution. I do not think my Brother Ahmad Jibril really means that.

From here, from this platform, we should tackle all our issues. As I said, we are not against a relationship with Syria. On the contrary; it is a central issue. It is quite possible that some are [word indistinct] about this relationship with Syria. Since 1 January 1965, and before then, we have had the best of relations with Syria. It is common that two friends often quarrel simply because they are friends; they rebuke one another more than if they were not friends. That is what a poet once said. I am sorry if some here do not like poetry, but I have many good poems. Often the things you like most are not so common. This is our nature; we want everything. We would like to hold frank discussions.

None of us said that Syria did not fight. The Syrians fought with us in Beirut and they put up a heroic fight. We recognize this. But was this the only Syrian political decision? We would have liked to see Syria place Damascus in the same position as Beirut. I criticize those whom Brother Ahmad Jibril mentioned in Syria who did not place Beirut in the same position as Damascus. We wanted and we still want all Arab capitals to be one capital. We champion this cause. We must be together for better or for worse. We are among those who championed the engagement of this war. I recall that Brother George said that we could have [words indistinct]. This action might not end the Zionist state but it could have some effect on it making it weak. [passage indistinct]

Since the first meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, Iraq and Syria have had differences, and it was we who entered, headed by Hamid Abu Sittah and all the resistance groups. They entered the Sateadfastness and Confrontation Front while they [as heard] were in conference. We told them on a previous occasion in a joking manner that we had placed explosives to blow up the entire building. We entered their conference room and told them: You must unite. We asked them one by one: Where do you stand in this front? I remember that on that day we asked this of President Hafiz al-Asad and of the late President Boumedienne -- may God rest his soul. They answered by saying: Yes, we are with this front. [applause] We also asked Brother Ali Nasir, and he said: We are with the front. At that time Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was writing something about a new formula. Afterward he said: I am with the front. And the front was formed, with us making up the five members.

Why did this front emerge? In the beginning it was formed to stop the Arab deterioration and collapse which As-Sadat caused to our Arab nation by going to Jerusalem and returning with the Camp David agreements. I say that this front at that time performed its function and aims most admirably, but it was not intended to make the Steadfastness Front into a club to applaud one another. We wanted this front to fight with us. There was talk about ingratitude. But, never mind, we are talking democratically. We are not ungrateful. We are not underhanded. But there have been acts of ingratitude and underhanded dealings against us. It was right that that faction which left Beirut after 90 days of steadfastness and fighting should be welcomed with festivities and joy by the the Arab nation. Even if we were wrong in saying harsh words against some, it is expected that an older brother should have patience; he is the one who has a country and a regime, and he says that he is patriot, progressive, and democrat.

It is not we who asked to be angry against this universe. We were alone, Brother Ahmad Jibril, we were alone. This is no (?exaggeration). We were alone not out of despair, the despair which closes doors against people, but we must tell the truth, the bitter truth, from a position of trying to safeguard this front, not from a position of hostility toward it. We had hopes in all the agreements that were reached with Libya. I do not deny that Libya gave us a great deal of weapons, but there is a weapon, of which you and all my brothers know, that we were promised but which never arrived.

We were not taken by surprise in the Beirut battle. We knew that there was going to be a battle and we knew as early as February that this battle would reach Beirut. Some of our brothers in the Palestinian leadership would not believe this, but we believed it because we knew the sources. We and the Palestinian leadership said: We must prepare even if the information is wrong, incorrect, or inaccurate. We had gone to Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and we had gone to our Syrian brothers and we talked to them about the battle. We conveyed to them what we wanted. We also talked with our Algerian brothers and with all Arabs who were friendly to us. This honorable battle, in my opinion, proved our theory about the armed struggle and the people's war.

I used to read about the people's war, and I say quite honestly that all we experienced in the past few years was armed struggle. It was not a people's war except in Lebanon and Beirut. A loaf of bread (?was shared) among those who swept the streets, those who ran the water pumps or the electricity generators, and with the fighter who carried a rifle. They were all of the same caliber. They fought and worked with honor. Therefore, it was a real people's war. All concerned cooperated. Those who were injured in hospitals had songs written about them by the struggler from the beloved Egypt, 'Adli Fakhri. He used to sing to them [applause] and tell them to stand fast. These words, to us, expressed all that this Arab nation could say or do.

When we say that we fought this battle alone, what do we mean? I have never thought and I do not imagine anyone else ever thought that with us in Beirut there was a Syrian Army that would not fight. Anyone saying such a thing would be doing this army a great injustice. They fought with us. They fought with us with honor on all fronts. But again I say: Syria was required to do more. If Syria had opened the door to the fighting, the fighting might have been much greater.

We left Beirut. What did we meet? We met ingratitude. I sear by the honor of this revolution that when I heard that these heroes who left Beirut were called sheep and cattle by the voice of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, I nearly began to disbelieve in this entire Arab nation. These heroes are not sheep or cattle. They are men and they are the best of men. [applause, cheers] These men are not sheep and cattle. We tried to come to an understanding about these words with my Brother 'Abd as-Salam Jallud. Only 2 weeks ago all the Arab liberation movements were described as beggars coming to Libya for money. Who said this? Again the story of the sheep is told. I do not accept being called a sheep, nor would I accept that any fedayeen should be called sheep. I have always said that the one who does not become angry about the dignity of his people and his fighters can never remain with this revolution until victory. [applause] We are not sheep in this Arab area.

From this platform we do not drag anyone to any enclosure. We have no enclosures to which we take anybody. We are all drawn to Palestine. We are all drawn by this great thing called Palestine, this heroic Arab nation. We want to draw the whole world. We are drawn to armed struggle, to fighting, and the continuation of the fighting. This is the only thing that we can agree: to be drawn to or to draw others to [words indistinct]. This does not mean that there are no reactionaries in the Arab world and that I am not allowed to talk about a patriotic regime. Who says this? Who has given this divine right to the patriotic regimes? Who gave them this right (?to dictate to us)? And what about us? We are revolutionaries and patiots and we are more patriotic than all these patiotic regimes. [applause]

Sisters and brothers, if we go back to the question of our departure from Beirut, we find that the first one who tried to steal this victory and who tried to implicate some Arabs with him, we see that it was Israel and America. As soon as we (?thought of celebrating) this victory, we were faced with the Sabra and Shatila massacres. You have heard and read a great deal about it. Actually, the best book about it was by [name indistinct]. In it he talked about Sabra and Shatila and included details of the massacre. If we read between the lines, we find that the main aim, or basic aim behind this massacre was first to frighten the western area and all its patriots in such a way that no one would continue to carry arms. I am not talking about the (?regular) forces; I am talking about the groups in Lebanon which, when they heard about the massacre -- and I know that you want me to tell the facts -- threw down their weapons in the streets.

All this happened as a result of the massacre. They frightened and terrified the patriots. They made the traitor and isolationist Fadi Afram stand up and say: We are victorious in Lebanon. Naturally, he has no value. The victory he talked about came from the Zionist enemy and from the United States and all its capabilities. This is not important. What is important is that Fadi Afram declared that there was a victor and vanquished. He said: We are the victors and you, the patriots, are the vanquished. They wanted to make those honorable patriots of our Arab nation, the noblest blood in Lebanon, pay the price before they would withdraw to the outskirts of Beirut. They wanted to tell the Lebanese patriots and every Arab patriot: If you get near this Palestinian revolution, this will be your fate. Your fate will be slaughter and destitution.

And for a short while they succeeded. But this giant patriotic movement returned and the Lebanese patriots [applause] became strong again. They began to fight and today their operations are like the Lebanese armed resistance. They are fighting in every street in Lebanon. Thus the first aim of the massacre failed. The second aim was to steal victory from us.

I went to Kuwait and there I was not asked about the departure or about [words indistinct]. I went to Qatar from there. There, the massacre was in front of me. I found all the masses there asking me questions. I found our women, who should have been wearing their best clothes and carrying lovely flowers, wearing black. When I began to speak, one woman shouted to me: You say everything can be replaced. I said: We are people who are not afraid to offer martyrs. Those who were killed in the massacre were added to the thousands who fell during the fighting. She answered me: What about those who were raped [words indistinct]? I kept silent for a moment. I suppressed my anger and pain and said to her: My sister, it is the wound of the fighter. The fighter might be hit in his eyes and he might be hit in his heart and a sister might be hit in any part of her body. [applause] This is no more than a wound of the fighter and the honor of the fighter.

What could I say to them? These were some of the aims of the massacre.

The third aim was to make our Palestinian people in Lebanon, in addition to the honorable patriots -- the progressives and patriots -- feel that this massacre is the Israeli way of spreading fear, especially [words indistinct] Menahem Begin, who committed the Dayr Yasin massacre, which he called in his book The Liberation the operation to cause fear. They wanted to frighten our people and make them begin to leave Lebanon in their thousands.

This attempt also failed. Our people sood fast despite all the terrible things they had been enduring there. At the height of the revolution and of the patriotic movement they were proud people.

Now they walk the streets afraid to say that they are Palestinians. This is a fact. I say this on account of the honor of trust we in the leadership carry. How often did we talk about the people in Lebanon? How often did we talk about the means which we must offer this people so that they can [words indistinct]? What are we going to do to confront the plan which is being prepared for our people in Lebanon at the hands of Israel and the isolationists? You can ask any informed man in the Arab homeland and in the world what is being prepared for our people. They are preparing their expulsion from all Lebanon, small massacres like Sabra and Shatila. These have actually begun. You all remember how in recent weeks 10 were found dead here and 10 others were killed there. There are women who are (?refused) work (?permits). All the persecution that one can imagine in history is happening and not at the hands of the Israelis alone; it includes individuals from the Lebanese Army, which is full of hate and which did not keep the honor of defending the dignity of the homeland, this army which sometimes raises isolationist sectarian slogans in order to kill our people and kill our men and women. Hundreds of detainees, I do not want to say thousands of detainees [words indistinct]. This plan seeks the expulsion of people from Lebanon.

We must think [words indistinct]. Also, we know that among the aims of this massacre is our losing confidence in one another. [passage indistinct] We left Beirut. The massacre caught up with us. Other massacres await our people, our detainees in Al-Ansar. I believe that in the history of Nazism there were detention camps like those where our brothers in Al-Ansar are kept. They are trying to humiliate them by every means. The harshest of these means included showing our brothers in Al-Ansar pictures of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. By showing them they score several points: that these fighters left you behind in Beirut, that the leadership decided to leave Beirut so that your people could be slaughtered. This is another aim.

What is your opinion about carrying arms so that you can fight these Christians who bear the emblem of the Phalangists, so that you can protect your people? I am not saying anything strange. All my brothers, or most of them, know these facts. The detention camps in Lebanese prisons and in the prisons of the Phalangists were photographed and sent to people. All this is aimed at undermining their morale and making them quit this revolution and stop carrying a rifle. This is the third aim.

I say we left Beirut and we left these children. With your permission and on behalf of you all, I wish to convey greetings and a salute to men from men, the salute of fighters to fighters [applause], and say to them: We are upholding the pledge, the pledge of struggle and continued revolution until victory. You will be with us soon in the trenches of combat and fighting. The Zionist enemy will not succeed in making you despair. The United States will not succeed in making you despair as it tried to make us despair.

While we were on board the ship leaving Beirut, the Reagan plan appeared before us. Before I talk about Reagan [words indistinct] Brezhnev's death no one mentioned. Some people imagine that if we talk about all the things that are presented to us and reject them, then this is the revolutionary path. Permit me to say before I talk about the overall settlement that this was not the choice of this movement at its inception. We set off on 1 January 1965 in circumstances which were much more difficult than today's. I say we are in circumstances a thousand times better than those. When we started, no one knew us. We did not have the Soviet Union on our side or the socialist states. We had with us only some of the Arabs with whom we were in touch. We were third. Our circumstances today are much better. We are now in Algeria. Its revolutionary government is with us, as are some Arabs who represent Arab governments and who are dear to us. We have our friends in this world and they are attending our conference, despite all that happened in Lebanon and Beirut. I say that we started out in conditions which were much more difficult than today. But allow me to say that sometimes I feel the sting of words while they are being said. I feel I am one of these fighters who do not deserve to hear biting words.

I say we set off in those difficult conditions. We have never stopped carrying the weapons and bearing the burden in all fields. Our brothers and our fighting groups know that we were men who fought like the best of fighters and like the most honorable of men because we are from this Arab nation and not because we are Fatah men. I hate group fanaticism. We are men of this revolution and brothers of this revolution. We fought in all the battles, both offensive and in battles imposed on us. We all remember that after September in Jordan and after the massacres which took place there -- after Jarash and 'Ajlun -- we began to think about another base, about other bases. My Brother Abu 'Ammar made us go and stay in Mount Hermon in order to find a secure base. [Sentence indistinct] We searched in the heart of the people of Lebanon and in the heart of its patriotic movement and we found that it has all the attributes of a secure base.

At that time, As-Sadat surprised us with the October war. I hope you will forgive me; I have told this story before. Bear with me because this history is very important so that we can understand the meaning of responding to a peaceful settlement and the meaning of destroying a peaceful settlement.

Khalaf Speech Conclusion

LD210954 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 83

["Second part" of speech by Salah Khalaf at 18 February session of PNC congress -- recorded]

[Text] I said that As-Sadat surprised us before the October war. I recall that Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi] and I had a meeting with him outside Alexandria, at Burj al-Arab. He wanted to meet only one of us. The man was a plotter by nature and did not like to talk to two or three persons together. He asked to see only one of us. However, we insisted that we (?stick) together. He received both of us. This was in August.

He talked about the war and said that he wanted to postpone the Geneva conference. At that time I remember I said to Brother Abu Mahir [Ahmad al-Yamani] that there is going to be a war. We made a bet and he still has not paid up. I vividly remember that. We also met here at the Nonaligned conference in Algiers before the war. We made an appointment to meet him once again in Cairo: Brother Abu 'Ammar, Brother (?Abu al-Luft), and Brother Abu al-Hawl and myself were with him at At-Tahirah palace.

I remember the events as if they were in front of me now. He presented proposals to us [words indistinct]. We asked him not to launch the war. Abu 'Ammar said to him: The war is not in your favor and it will be a (?disaster) for you; you should launch the war [words indistinct]. On that day, we had gone to the house of Brother Ahmad (?Jibril). We were lying on the beds knowing what to expect because [words indistinct]. Egypt was a great power with arms and men. It was a seat of learning, had a history, everything. We knew that the man had begun to tread the path of (?war). Things became known after (?the war). We came to learn that As-Sadat made a deal in February 1973. He stuck to it to the end. [Words indistinct] to be a burden on this great people, the people of (?Egypt), and weigh down the will of the Egyptian people and the will of the great Egyptian Army which fought with (? us in three) wars. Even in the October war it put up a great fight [words indistinct].

I said that after the war, on 26 October, I met (? him) [words indistinct]. Before we sat down, he said: We are not going to Geneva. (? He asked us if he could continue) and we said to him: Please talk; we are listening. Actually, we tried everything (?to make him change his mind). The man was talking about battle. He said two sentences about it and then [passage indistinct].

How do we reach our (?objective)? The person may have a lot of things on his mind. We speak with great courage and frankness about these things.

First, we cannot reach Palestine until we implement our first slogan -- that is, to create an atmosphere around Israel and our occupied soil, this Arab atmosphere that prepares the atmospheres of combat and the atmospheres of fighting throughout in the Arab area. Herein lies the importance of having a base for us and the importance of our presence in any country that is near Israel in which we reside and in which we build our bases. The second thing is that we must struggle on all fronts, including the enemies' front or camp.

We should look at things and (?weigh them carefully) [words indistinct]. It is very easy for me to stand up and in 3 minutes say no to everything. There is nothing more difficult than saying yes to everything. It is easy to reject something, but it is difficult to accept something, especially with caution and with many restrictions.

Concerning the events in Beirut and what Reagan has offered us, I have not heard a single Palestinian say that he accepted Reagan's plan. Everyone said: Reagan has presented a plan that does not mention the Palestinian state, the PLO, or (?rights) in Palestine. One may differ on the drafting but in real terms I see that the United States is responsible for all the years of our people's suffering. The United States is responsible for every child that has been killed in Palestine and outside it. The United States is the one who mobilized all its arms and weapons against us. Despite this, I say quite honestly that if we reject this plan, or any other plan presented to us, we should do so with all the breath in our lungs -- but in a way in which we could frankly explain to our people why we reject this U.S. plan.

All those who like to reject Reagan should be armed with another weapon. From here I shall move on and say that I am in favor of Fes and the Fes resolutions because they are not a Palestinian choice but an Arab choice that was imposed on us. This is what the Arabs (?want). If we and our brothers in the Palestinian leadership had succeeded in improving this bad Arab situation, then we could have gained all our objectives and thus we would have quite frankly changed this reality and consequently changed the terms [words indistinct] so that we could improve the prospects for our people. This does not at all mean that I am of the school that says that the (?people want to make) concessions. Our people are a fighting people; our people are a mighty people. This mighty, fighting people, however, are always in need of you to give it realistic solutions.

I remember when we put forward the interim solution that many of our fedayeen and our people inside the occupied territory were satisfied with it. In fact they felt that they had found a solution that could be achieved. You must not forget that our people have now been living for long years under occupation. They have continuously been staging demonstrations for us and for you. They have been bearing all forms of oppression with their bodies and combatting, with the stones in their hands, all forms of (?oppression).

Are we afraid of recognition? I do not have (?any reason) in [words indistinct] recognition. [passage indistinct] I say quite frankly Who said we (?have) to recognize Israel. I say honestly that this movement in which we grew up taught us to struggle and fight continuously. Nobody can impose recognition of Israel on us; this is a fact. We should all understand that there is a solution that we are putting forward to the world. Begin rejected the Reagan plan; he rejected it, with all that it contained. How can Begin accept an independent Palestinian state?

I challenge any man who is a Zionist in this Israeli military establishment to accept (?us as a state). It is our task to work on all fronts to show this racist and facist regime, which does not want to give our people their right to self-determination, their right to return, or their right [words indistinct]. We must struggle on all fronts for the sake of this right. Believe me, brothers, the task is difficult and long, not easy. We all recall the year 1974 and now we are in 1983. When we raised this slogan, the interim slogan over which we reached agreement, the American-Israeli tanks converged on us.

Not only did they enter southern Lebanon, but they came to Beirut to kill you one by one. This is because they know that you are a threat to them and to their existence. Not even the Americans want [words indistinct] gave me a memorandum about the Reagan statements. I found out afterward these [words indistinct] statements and I do not want to read them to you because you have already read them; they concentrate on this plot implemented in Lebanon against us, which was engineered by the United States.

From this point, I say that we must not disagree over a mirage. We should define our interim tasks and all other tasks. In my opinion, the interim task at this stage is that we safeguard our revolution and our rifle. We should also safeguard our national personality. We should also take up arms in order first to fight Reagan. Why Reagan? Because all those who want to reject Reagan are [words indistinct]. I do not accuse anyone. But directly or indirectly they say [word indistinct]. He does not want me to arm myself with a resolution that I can, as a weapon in my hand, present to Europe and to the outside world. More important, there should be a base between me and these friends about whom we (?sing the praises).

On 3 January the Warsaw Pact states met in Prague. The political and nonpolitical bodies met. What were their resolutions? The resolutions were to support Comrade Brezhnev's proposal, that is the Soviet peace plan, and then to support the resolutions of the Arab (?summit). This is the strategic ally that we can reach an agreement with. We should find a base on which we can struggle together. On what are we going to agree with him? On this base. Moreover, if we do not have great confidence in ourselves, we should have confidence in our friends. They might oppose us if we deviated and did not follow the right course. However, I am confident that we have grown up and are now mature; we do not accept anyone as our custodian. This is the base that we have for friends in the world, so that we can say to the Soviet Union: You are called upon at this stage in the face of these Palestinian strugglers to stand with them.

The Fes summit and the Fes resolutions represent the end of Palestinian concessions and not the beginning. This should be understood by all. We do not agree to part company after the Fes resolutions. The Arabs want to be told and I will not agree to being dragged around. We have confidence in ourselves and no one can draw us to any place to which we do not want to go. I have confidence that we are a firm Palestinian leadership. We are all shrewd. We all have fingers in the Arab regimes. If we use all our shrewdness in the Palestinian arena and in the Palestinian revolution, we can achieve what we want. No one can drag us anywhere we do not wish to go. On the contrary, as the Koran says, we are easy on one another but firm toward enemies. If we apply this and actually are kind to one another and not tough against one another, I believe we can come out of this stage and possibly, in a year's time, if we adjust the balances of forces, we may attend another council session and say: No, Fes is not enough. We want more. [applause] I am certain of this, but we have to work in order to reach that stage. I am certain that we can reach that stage.

What have we to do to reach that stage? The first of our tasks, I say, is to redraft our Arab alliances. I do not want to talk about national unity. Palestinian national unity is a reality; it exists. No matter how much we (?attack) one another verbally, in our hearts and souls and thoughts we are with one another. [sentence indistinct]

Truly, I do not want to speak, but my brothers in Fatah let me talk on their behalf. I was thinking: (?Will I talk) about Palestinian national unity, the unity of the Arab liberation movement, the unity of this or that, and the strategic alliance with the Soviet Union, and other things? No, I am not going [words indistinct].

National unity is an established fact. No one can violate this Palestinian national unity. Our slogan for national unity is that we should not be gracious toward one another about this national unity. [as heard]

We are not indebted to anyone for this national unity, and no one can say we owe him anything for this national unity. National unity is the result of long years of struggle and fighting. It must not be a matter of bestowing favor on one another. We have created this national unity. I say this not only for Fatah but for all the groups. No one can violate it unless he says: [Word indistinct]. [applause]

I believe we must draw up a plan of national unity under a collective leadership. I say collective leadership so that all of us are consulted about the decisions. We should work hard on consultations on decisions so that decisions are sound and are made unanimously, even if Abu Mahir Ahmad al-Yamani may be reticent or even if others are reticent. Even if they are, let it be within this national unity. But they must know where are they going. I believe that this unity, this unanimity was underlined by the [word indistinct] program, the organizational program. May be we have to invest extra effort in the movement, but in the end we will arrive at sound decisions.

On the basis of this political and organizational unity, we want to operate on the following fronts. Here I am not talking about contacts with Egypt, or on the enemy front, or that I want to contact Husni Mubarak or the Zionists. No. I want to operate on this front and on the Jordanian front and also on other fronts because if my relationship with Saudi Arabia is good and Nayif Hawatimah's relationship with Saudi Arabia is bad, I must not sell out Nayif Hawatimah for the sake of Saudi Arabia. [applause]

I say once again what I said to my brothers in the Palestinian leadership [words indistinct]. It is not right for us to rejoice in having separate Arab relations. Our Arab relations must all be sound. From this platform I say that we must act on the following fronts. Even if I am reserved in my talk, I say we must act on the basis of rejecting Camp David and the creator of Camp David. We should act on the basis of rejecting the treasonous act of As-Sadat and we should act on the basis of needing the Egyptian people. I am not saying we should open the doors wide; some Arabs may not understand it and take it as an excuse to (?make up) with Egypt. As my Brother Abu 'Ammar said, they are taking their turn. [as heard] But also my Brother Khalid Muhyi ad-Din said that if there is a small breach through which the [Camp David] agreements can be dismantled, we should encourage it. How? This is not the place for this. We in the Palestinian leadership should meet and (?discuss it). We say to our people: What are we going to do to (?bring Egypt back to the fold), but without Camp David? We should (?use all methods) so that we succeed (?in breaching the barrier).

When Ahmad Jibril was speaking my body trembled. Not only Ahmad but all the others who spoke made me tremble. I truly imagined that I was sitting with my enemies who were staying in my house. I was born in Jaffa and I truly love Jaffa; I was not very young when I left it. I do not like anyone to occupy my house or my country. [Words indistinct] progressive or not, it makes no difference. [Words indistinct] I will not ask him (?anything). I will ask him at a meeting when we are free of speeches and slogans and talk. We have to breach the enemy front. I have no objection.

I said to my brothers in Fatah that we will take with us a blood-testing kit to see who is a Zionist and who is not. I am even prepared to do this so as not to meet Zionists. But are we not allowed to operate? Is the Jew (?who is fortified) ideologically impossible for me to penetrate? I do not know what the issue is. The whole spectrum of opinion can be heard inside the Israeli society. I would like to say that Nahum Goldmann believes in the State of Israel more than Begin, but from the historical viewpoint Nahum Goldmann saw that if this oppression and injustice against the Palestinian people continues, the Jews will be massacred once again in a much more horrible way. He tried with foresight to see this and tried to say: No, my brothers, let us have a small Israel.

In any case, this is a subject that I know is hard to accept, or to talk about. But we are leaders. For more than 18 years we have been taking blows from the Zionists, and our people have been taking blows for over 35 years. [words indistinct] Yes, we should be wary. We are in favor of the decision taken by the previous PNC session which said that we must have no contact with the (?Zionists). Nobody said we (?should have contacts with the Zionists). I do not believe that when my brothers met [words indistinct] were not Zionists but they were [words indistinct] they were talking [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, I say that the matter should be studied, and neither I nor anyone else is allowed to attempt anything on his own. We must all try together to see how we can [words indistinct].

I also believe that the Jordanians might hear my name or that of some relative of mine and put him [words indistinct]. Here also I would say that if there is going to be some assignation of powers and some representations in relations, we are not in favor of such relations. [passage indistinct] But if any confederal base is established, it must be on the basis of an independent Palestinian state. Frankly, any confederation without a Palestinian state means Reagan and means annexation with Jordan. We started out in 1967 or 1965 to regain all Palestine. In 1967 we met Arab failure, starting in the Golan, and (?let Israel) reach the Suez Canal. However, this does not at all mean that the West Bank should not have a state and a homeland for our people through which they can exercise their (?rights) and their national personality; that would be the beginning of the end for international Zionism. I believe that we should not disagree over it if it has this guarantee.

I would like to know one thing. We are always afraid they might [words indistinct]. Who said that in a single moment we are going to (?forgive) any particular Arab ruler, especially one who slaughtered us and has tried more than once to hurt us? No. [passage indistinct] I understand that after Beirut and Lebanon we need political (?liberation), which recognizes our presence at this table [words indistinct] and debate this subject objectively to see what we must guard against. Why should we give the confederation to King Husayn? We should give it to our people and [words indistinct]. I say that we should point out all the curbing and cautionary forces to that there will be no mistake in this matter through the [word indistinct].

Concerning the Iran-Iraq war, I do not believe that it is in our interest as Palestinians and Arabs for this war to continue. Iraqi and Iranian delegations are with us. If we adopted a neutral stand, it was not meant [words indistinct]. What was meant was that we knew the hands that caused this war. Our duty and honor impose on us to say to you that this war must stop, especially now that Iraqi forces have withdrawn from Iranian territory. Our duty calls on us to say: enough bloodshed. This blood is dear to us, Islamic blood in Iran and Arab blood in Iraq. Enough. We have had enough of the collapse that is taking place throughout this nation. [applause] I believe that we can operate (?when this war ends) on this front and on the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

I began with Syria. Please allow me, brothers, to say in front of you that we are prepared to hold a Palestinian meeting at any level -- at the Fatah level, at the level of the PLO -- to discuss relations with Syria on the basis of mutual confidence and as comrades in the same trench. The head of the tribe is not the one who bears malice. The head of the people is not the one who bears malice. [applause] We welcome honest Syrian-Palestinian relations on clear bases.

Despite all the wounds inflicted by my Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, I hope he will have the courage to stand up at a conference (? take back) all the words he said about our people and our fighters. We are also prepared to establish relations. We have no (?objection) to relations with anyone, but on the condition that these relations are not based on food, on a loaf of bread, or on (? money). If my brothers in Fatah permit -- if they think money is important -- we are prepared to have relations with Al-Qadhdhafi without money. We do not want any aid from Al-Qadhdhafi, nothing whatsoever, only that these relations be based on a proper foundations. [applause]

We support Syrian-Palestinian relations. I did not mention Algeria and the PDRY because our relations, thank God, are excellent. I hope that the brothers in Algeria and Aden play a basic role in creating an Arab force [words indistinct] my Brother Ahmad (?should forgive me) that we do not want to drag anyone into any camp. But at the same time we must safeguard Arab solidarity. As Palestinians our responsibility is great. We are not only a revolution but also a progressive revolutionary ideology not only a revolution but also a progressive revolutionary ideology engaged in social and political struggle as well as in liberating soil. It means that we are a revolution serving both casues.

Many brothers in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia probably [words indistinct]. Those in Kuwait want to attack the ones in Saudi Arabia and the ones in Saudi Arabia want to attack the ones in Qatar. You know that a word can sometimes ease all the suffering of this people. Never mind; we can be tolerant. Let anyone insult Arab (? reaction). We will bear it. I recall what President Hafiz al-Asad had to say at the funeral of the late hero Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. Brother Abu 'Ammar and some other brothers and I met him in the hall. He said to us: The man is dead, the man who used to absorb all our mistakes in this Arab homeland. He used to bear our mistakes.

I say that a group should come forward and say it can bear all the baseness of the Arab nation. We will bear it. We are prepared to bear it. [applause]

I beg those around me not to insult anyone. Although I feel like cursing everyone and I feel as if I hate everyone, responsibility sometimes makes one suppress his anger and say nothing.

Sisters and Brothers, our words have made you (?suffer) as groups, but I believe that it is good that we listen to one another and hear one another. PNC members, be sure that the Fatah movement will remain loyal to the principles of this revolution under the leadership of my Brother Yasir 'Arafat. Peace be with You. [applause]

22 February Proceedings

LD220129 [Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1748 GMT on 22 February carries live coverage of the proceedings at the 16th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The live relay begins with the reading of the political report drafted by participants in the session. The reading of the political statement ends at 1824 GMT and the announcer reports that this was received with warm applause.

At 1830 GMT the announcer notes that the PLO Executive Committee will tender its resignation at this session so that a new Executive Committee can be elected. The announcer then paraphrases the content of the political statement. At 1835 GMT the announcer reports that PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has announced the resignation of the PLO Executive Committee and that the election of the new committee will now take place.

The announcer then reports the beginning of nominations inside the chamber. Havil 'Abd al-Hamid nominates Yasir 'Arafat, the former chairman of the Executive Committee. Applause can be heard. In the background Khalid al-Fahum is heard saying: "Faruq Qaddumi [applause]; Brother Abu Mahir al-Yamani [applause]; Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh [applause]; Brother Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar [applause]; Brother Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani [applause]; Brother Talal Naji [applause]; Brother Muhammad Khalifah [applause]; Brother Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad [applause]; Dr Hanna Nasir [applause]; Brother Mahmud Abbas [applause]; Brother Hamid Abu Sittah [applause]; Brother Jamal as-Surani [applause]."

Dr Hanna Nasir is nominated chairman of the Palestinian National Fund.

The announcer reports that the participants have approved the list of names which was read out containing the nominees for the PLO Executive Committee. The announcer then reports that a speech by PLO Information and Culture Department head Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh is in progress. Among other things, 'Abd Rabbuh is heard to say: "The Executive Committee you have elected has unanimously elected brother struggler and leader Yasir 'Arafat chairman of the Executive Committee." The announcer reports that 'Arafat's election to the chairmanship of the new Executive Committee met with the "absolute and unanimous support" of all members of the PNC.

Following a report by the announcer on Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh's speech in which he is said to praise 'Arafat, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh concludes as follows: "We emerge from this council with a Palestinian leadership led by the leader-struggler Yasir 'Arafat [applause]; a unified leadership and a leadership determined -- no matter how difficult the path may be -- to continue the struggle for the sake of return, self-determination, and for the sake of the independent Palestinian state. Long live our PNC in its 16th session! Long live our people! Glory to the revolution! [applause]"

Al-Fahum is then heard voicing "appreciation to the brother struggler President Chadli Benjedid [applause] for his attitude. Brother, while we are about to end the work of our session -- the session of the steadfastness of Lebanon, the session of martyr Sa'd Sayil, I invite Brother Yasir 'Arafat [applause], chairman of the Executive Committee and the commander in chief, to deliver the concluding speech." Arafat then speaks at 1842 GMT.

AFP on Executive Committee

NC221952 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 22 (AFP) -- The Palestinian National Council today reelected Yasir 'Arafat chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. There are now only 14 members of the Executive Committee following the resignation for health reasons of Salah Dabbagh.

Here is the full list of committee members elected today:

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman, Fatah group.
Faruq Qaddumi, Fatah.
Muhammad 'Abbas, Fatah.
Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).
Ahmad al-Yamani, Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).
Muhammad Khalifah, As-Sa'iqah.
Talal Naji, PFLP, General Command.
'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Arab Liberation Front.
'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, independent.
Hanna Nasir, independent.
Muhammad an-Nashashibi, independent.
Jamal Surani, independent.
Hamid Abu Sittah, independent.
Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajjani, independent.

PNC Political Statement

LD222035 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1748 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Political statement of PNC read during 22 February concluding session in Algiers -- live relay begins with point 5]

[Text] 5. The National Council salutes the steadfastness of its people living in the areas occupied in 1948 [applause] and is proud of their struggle, in the face of racist Zionism, to assert their national identity, it being an indivisible part of the Palestinian people. The council asserts the need to provide all the means of backing for them so as to consolidate their unity and that of their national forces.

6. The council conveys greeting of appreciation and pride to the prisoners and the detainees in the jails of the enemy [applause] inside the occupied homeland and in southern Lebanon.

II. Our Dispersed People:

The PNC asserts the need to mobilize the resources of our people wherever they reside outside our occupied land and to consolidate their rallying around the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people. It recommends to the Executive Committee to work to preserve the social and economic interests of Palestinians and to defend their gained rights and their basic liberties and security. [applause]

Contacts With Jewish Forces:

In affirming resolution No 14 of the political declaration of the PNC at its 13th session on 12 March 1977, the PNC calls on the Executive Committee to study movement within this framework in line with the interest of the cause of Palestine and the Palestinian national interest. [applause]

On the Arab Level:

Arab Relations:

Deepening cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement throughout the Arab homeland so as to effectively stand up to the imperialist and Zionist plots and liquidation plans, particularly the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan [applause] and also ending the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab land, relations between the PLO and the Arab states shall be based on the following:

A. Commitment to the causes of the Arab struggle, first and foremost the cause of and struggle for Palestine.

B. Adherence to the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO -- rights that were confirmed by the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences.

C. Adherence to the question of sole representation and national unity and respect for national and independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

D. Rejection of all schemes aimed at harming the right of the PLO to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people through any formula such as assigning powers, acting on its behalf, or sharing its right of representation. [applause]

E. The PNC calls for strengthening Arab solidarity on the basis of the resolutions of Arab summit conferences and in light of the aforementioned bases.

The Resolutions of the Fes Summit:

The Arab Peace Plan:

The PNC considers the Fes summit resolutions as the minimum for political moves by the Arab states, moves which must complement military action with all its requirements for adjusting the balance of forces in favor of the struggle and Palestinian and Arab rights. The council, in understanding these resolutions, affirms it is not in conflict with the commitment to the political program and the resolutions of the National Council.

Jordan:

Emphasizing the special and distinctive relations linking the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the need for action to develop them in harmony with the national interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation, and in order to realize the rights [passage indistinct] the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, both inside and outside the occupied land, the PNC deems that future relations with Jordan should be founded on the basis of a confederation between two independent states. [loud applause]

Lebanon:

1. Deepening relations with the Lebanese people and their National Forces [applause] and extending support and backing to them in their valiant struggle to resist the Zionist occupation and its instruments.

2. At the forefront of the current missions of the Palestinian revolution will be participation with the Lebanese masses and their National and democratic forces in the fight against and the ending of Zionist occupation. [applause]

3. The council invites the Executive Committee to work for holding talks between the PLO and the Lebanese Government in order to ensure the security and safety of Palestinian nationals residing in Lebanon and to guarantee their rights to residence, movement, work, and freedom of political and social activity.

4. Working for an end to the politically motivated mass and individual arrests of detainees in the jails of the Lebanese authorities and for their release.

Relations With Syria:

Relations with sister Syria are based on the resolutions of successive PNC sessions which confirm the importance of the strategic relationship between the PLO and Syria [applause] in the service of the nationalist and pan-Arab interests of struggle and in order to confront the imperialist and the Zionist enemy, in light of the PLO's and Syria's constituting the vanguard in the face of the common danger.

The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front:

The PNC entrusts the PLO Executive Committee to have talks with the sides of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to discuss how it should be revived anew on sound, clear, and effective foundations, working from the premise that the front was not at the level of the tasks requested of it during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. [applause]

Egypt:

The PNC confirms its (?rejection) of the Camp David accords and the autonomy and civil administrations plans linked to them. From the premise of the firm belief in the role of Egypt and its great people [applause] in Arab struggle, the council confirms that it stands by the struggle of the Egyptian people and their nationalist forces to end the Camp David policy so that Egypt may return to its position of struggle in the heart of our Arab nation. The council calls on the Executive Committee to develop PLO relations with Egyptian nationalist, democratic, and popular forces struggling against moves to normalize relations with the Zionist enemy in all their forms, considering that this expresses the basic interests of the Arab nation and consolidates the struggle of our Palestinian people for their national rights. The council calls on the Executive Committee to define relations with the Egyptian regime on the basis of its abandoning the Camp David policy. [applause]

The Iranian-Iraqi War:

The PNC admires the efforts which have been exerted by the PLO Executive Committee to end the Iraqi-Iranian war through the two committees of the nonaligned states and the Muslim states. The council calls on the Executive Committee to persist in these efforts so as to end this war now that Iraq has announced the withdrawal of its forces from Iranian territory in response to the appeal of the Palestinian revolution [applause] and to mass all energies for the battle of the liberation of Palestine.

On the International Level:

Brezhnev's Plan:

The PNC expresses its appreciation and support for the proposals contained in President Brezhnev's plan of 16 September 1982 which asserts the established national rights of our people, including the right to return and the right to self-determination and to set up the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, this people's sole legitimate representative. It also expresses its appreciation of the stands of the socialist community states toward the just cause of our people, which is underlined in the Prague statement of 3 January 1983 on the Middle East situation.

Reagan's Plan:

Reagan's plan, in style [ar nahj] and content, does not respect the established national rights of the Palestinian people since it denies the right of return and self-determination and the setting up of the independent Palestinian state and also the PLO -- the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people -- and since it contradicts international legality. Therefore, the PNC rejects the considering of this plan [applause] [rafd i'tibarihi asasan salihan lil-hal al-'adil wa-adda'imi liqadiyat filistin wa-lisira' al-'arabi as-suhuni] as a sound basis for the just and lasting solution of the cause of the Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

III. International Relations:

1. Developing and deepening relations of alliance and friendship between the PLO and the socialist states, led by the Soviet Union [applause], and all anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, anticolonialist, and antiracist liberation and progressive forces in the world.

2. Deepening relations with the nonaligned states and the Islamic and African states for the sake of the cause of Palestine and the other liberation causes.

3. Strengthening relations with friendly states in Latin Ameirca and working to widen the circle of friends in the area.

4. The intensification of political action with the West European states and Japan with a view to developing their stances and widening the recognition of the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian state. The PNC salutes all anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and antiracist democratic and progressive forces in the states of West Europe and all capitalist states, the latter being a fundamental ally in those countries. It calls on the Executive Committee to act jointly with these forces so that their states recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

5. Continuing the struggle to isolate the Zionist state in the United Nations and in other forums.

6. Standing up to U.S. imperialism and its policy by regarding it as the leader of the camp which is hostile to our just issue and the issues of the struggling peoples.

7. The council affirms the (?need) to continue the struggle against the policy of racial discrimination [passage indistinct].

The (?council) salutes the struggle of the people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, for freedom and independence. [applause] The council also salutes the struggle of the peoples of South Africa agaisnt racism and discrimination and oppression. [applause]

8. The PNC strongly denounces terrorism and international terrorists, in particular official American and Israeli terrorism, which is organized agaist the Palestinian people and the PLO, the people of Lebanon, the Arab nation, and the rest of the liberation movements in the world. [applause]

9. The National Council affirms its adherence to the principles and the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions which affirm the inalienable and indisposable national rights of the Palestinian people to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the right of all peoples subject to occupation to exercise all forms of struggle for the sake of achieving liberation and national independence.

The council also stresses its firm condemnation of all imperialist and Israeli practices which violate internationl legality, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and the principles and Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions.

10. The PNC appreciates the activities and achievments of the UN special committee concerned with enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to Palestine. It greets the efforts of its members, and in particular the UN General Assembly resolution calling for an international conference in the summer of 1983 to support the Palestinian people so that they realize their inalienable rights. The council also appreciates the achievements of the special secretariat for an international conference at the United Nations to preparre and pave the way for the success of this conference. It urges all fraternal Arab states and friendly states to take part effectively in the work of the conference and also in the preparatory regional meetings in order to guarantee the success of such an important conference.

Finally, the council thanks Algeria with deep warmth and appreciation [loud applause] -- the president, government, party, and people -- for hosting the council and its guests, for its great concern with ensuring its success, for the efforts exerted for coverage of its activities by the information media, for providing conditions permitting the smooth running of its debates, for guaranteeing its security, and for the tranquillity of its members and guests.

The council extends special thanks to the militant brother, President Chadli Bendjedid [applause], president of the republic and secretary general of its party, particularly for the official stand he announced regarding the independence of the Palestinian decision, the readiness of Algeria to support this decision, and to continue to support and back the Palestinian struggle until the achievement of victory and the setting up of the independent Palestinian state. [applause]

The council expresses thanks and appreciation to all the official and popular delegations which took part in the work of our council and announced their support and backing for the PLO and the cause of the Palestinian people. This international support for our revolution is without doubt a basic element of the success of our march, with which free people prove their solidarity in the face of the common enemy -- represented in imperialism and Zionism -- and for the freedom of peoples, their independence and progress. As for our brothers in the Arab delegations which have taken part in our council, we thank them in particular for their moving role in the Arab arena in order to create better conditions in support of our struggle and to confront the plans of the enemy. [applause]

We extend special greetings to the UN special committee which follows Israel's violations of human rights against Palestinians in the occupied land. [applause] The PNC promises the Palestinian and Arab masses and the forces of struggle and liberation throughout the world to continue the struggle in all its military and political forms toward the achievement of the objectives of our people. It believes that this Palestinian, Arab, and international cohesion, seen in this council as an effective weapon among the weapons of support and solidarity among peoples, must have results in reaching the desired objectives. The triumph of peoples will undoubtedly be achieved, and the solidarity of peace-loving peoples is a solidarity of which we are proud and to which we cling.

The National Council greets all the masses of our heroic people, inside and outside the homeland, and also our brave fighters, who have preserved the honor of their revolution, arms, and nation [applause], the souls of all the martyrs of our Palestinian and Lebanese people who soaked with blood the soil of the homeland and who have proved that the cause of freedom in our land will not die.

The PNC greets the brothers in the Syrian forces [applause] who took part with us in the heroic battle in Beirut and other regions, as well as their revered martyrs.

The council addresses greetings and appreciation to all the Arab, Muslim, and friendly volunteers who rose to contribute with the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces in the battles of Beirut and Lebanon, and we greet their heroic martyrs. The National Council appreciates all the countries and friendly and fraternal forces which provided support in the form of arms, money, military effort, training, and equipment, foremost the Arab and Islamic countries, the nonaligned and African states, and the socialist countries. [applause]

Long live the victorious Palestinian revolution! Long live the PLO, framework of the unity of our people and the leader of its struggle! Long live the unity of the struggle of our Arab peoples and the peoples of the world for freedom, national independence, and the defeat of imperialism, racism, and Zionism! Glory and eternal life for our revered martyrs! Revolution until victory! [applause]

'Arafat Concluding Speech

LD222205 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1842 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat concluding the 16th session of PNC at Palais des Nations in Algiers following his reelection as chairman of PLO Executive Committee -- live]

[Text] We offered the trust to the heavens, the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to carry it, and were afraid of it; and man carried it. Surely, he is sinful and very foolish. [Koranic verse]

[Brothers, brothers and dear ones: On this important historic day in the march of the victorious revolution, and in this good, revolutionary, fraternal country, we have today concluded with solid national unity, with strong and firm unity based on firm foundations that were christened in the rivers of blood that have never stopped flowing for one moment during our long march.

Mr Speaker and fellow-traveler, brothers, fellow-travelers, all of you, whether guests or brother members of the PNC. As we wind up this session today we recall the words uttered by Philip Habib [words indistinct]. I also recall a statement by President Reagan, who said that the most beautiful picture he has is that of your Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as he was leaving Beirut on the ship. This is because he considered this to be the end of the road for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian fighters. He believed that the Palestinian revolution's bones were fragile and that by agreeing to leave Beirut -- I say by agreeing to leave because, if you permit me, I would like to recall the days when Haig reached an agreement with Sharon, with the full approval of the American Administration, on this military campaign given to the mercenaries in the Israeli army. Some of them [words indistinct]. Sharon said 3 days, Eytan said 2 days, Shamir said 5 days. When the Israeli forces advanced, 169,000 men, not counting the marines and the Air Force; 800 tanks, 2,000 armored vehicles, and about 4,000 other vehicles of various types advanced. He thought that he could easily finish us in 2 or 3 days, as he had promised his masters in America.

At this point I must reveal an important military secret. Two important naval landings were made. The first military landing, the first naval landing was near (Al-Awali) river. The second naval landing was at As-Sa'diyat. The size of the first landing at (Al-Awwali) river was over one armored brigade, I mean one armored brigade plus a bit more, one or two units more. The force that landed at As-Sa'diyat was also about one brigade. All right, I am saying this with full responsibility. If we refer to the British strategic institute or department, we would learn that the volume and the capability of this Israeli army could exceed (?1,000). It could carry out a naval landing in any form or manner with more than 1 and 1/2 battalions. Why then did they land two brigades in two areas?

Herein lies this military secret. I would like to remind you, brothers, I would like to remind you all that before declaring war and before moving the armies the U.S. 6th Fleet announced an exercise or exercises with the Israeli army in the Mediterranean. What is the meaning of this? Naturally, they said it was something like an attempt to coordinate efforts. But as for this operation, it was the American support operation because the U.S. 6th Fleet -- the U.S. 6th Fleet with all its capabilities in the Mediterranean -- was the one that carried out the Israeli military landings at (Al-Awwali) river and at As-Sa'diyat. Brothers, I am not the one who said this. If you will allow me, I will read to you a report by an expert in strategy, French General George (OYT). He is an expert on military strategy in the world and on the Palestinian-Israeli war.

The Israeli forces received advanced weapons from the United States which many sectors of the U.S. Army did not have. They found this war to be a very good opportunity to test their latest weapons, and they added to the arms supplies a total of 2.5 billion. [as heard] Do you remember their airlift? One billion dollars and the advanced weapons and equipment as well as further great aid -- supplying Israel with intelligence information which the U.S. 6th Fleet gathered in the Mediterranean, through space technology and other means, and provided to this army.

The PLO assuredly hurt the aggressors in more than one way and tarnished Israel's aggressive image before the world. The American-Israeli army's geographical target was Beirut, whereas the sole strategic target was uprooting the PLO from Lebanon. In order to carry out the first phase of the first occupation operation, the Israeli forces used 100,000 troops, which later grew to 170,000 troops in this military operations arena.

The war was a bloody one, an extremely bloody one for the Zionist forces. As far as the conquering Israeli army was concerned, tactical ease had ended; it never found it in that war. The PLO was not and it will not be crushed. It cannot be crushed materially and its power cannot be destroyed by the force of arms. Even though it has been obliged to evacuate Beirut, it resisted a horrendous and barbaric assault without assistance. This is a fact, and it is a solid platform from which the PLO can proceed toward its future objective.

Brothers, this is an account by a French expert on military strategy. I wanted to read it simply to remind Philip Habib, Sharon, and their like and to say to Reagan: I think that the picture now in your bedroom will not be of any use to you, as we here represent this Arab will, this revolutionary will. [applause]

Brothers, I am saying this because what they thought would last only 2 or 3 days lasted for 88 days -- 79 days of which were the days of the siege of Beirut.

Brothers, there is something I wish to say to you and I relate it proudly: Seventeen attempts were made to storm Beirut, but they all foundered on the rock of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces and the Syrian Army, which was under siege with them in Beirut. [applause] I am saying this because many people think that every nut is easy to crack. No. I want to say to them that we are tough and the Palestine revolution is not one of the nuts that can be cracked. I want to tell them that not only did we perform the miracle of steadfastness, which is our first miracle, but we performed yet another miracle -- reorganizing ourselves and our military institutions by unifying the Palestine revolution forces into one army. [applause]

We have also performed a miracle by reorganizing our ranks, all of our ranks and all of our institutions -- from the Center of Studies, at which the wife of my brother Hanna, the head of the Center of Studies, was martyred, to the center of planning, to the other Palestinian institutions; from the unified center of information of all Palestinian organizations to the Higher Military Council, to your current PNC. This is the second miracle we have performed in less than 6 months. The first was the miracle of steadfastness and the second the miracle of reorganizing and rebuilding.

What did Philip Habib and Reagan say? They said: We want to destroy the foundation of the PLO. In this respect I want to say that they speak of this invincible [Israeli] army. But, brothers, by God I have not found it invincible. My brothers were with me during the siege, and they can testify to this. I wish all my nation was with me to see the feebleness of this army.

I am not exaggerating. They launched 17 attacks against us. They tried all sorts of weapons against us, old and new weapons. They admitted in one of their communiques that they had fired 210,000 projectiles in 1 day, ranging in weight from 1,000 pounds to 50 kg. If you were to calculate their weight, they would be equal to the Hiroshima bomb. Thus, on that day they dropped on us the equivalent of the Hiroshima bomb. But on the day of the 11 hours, when they bombarded us from the land, sea, and air, the weight of the bombs amounted to twice those used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Despite all this, I still remember that when the siege around us was complete, we, the Palestinian-Lebanese command, met and discussed what to do. I said to my brothers -- and I am a believer and am proud of it -- let me pray to God. I actually did and then I returned and told them: The scent of paradise has wafted down. Actually, brothers, this was the password in every [word indistinct] and in every place. Who was to make bread? The student -- do you not know the miracles which we performed [words indistinct] the university students opened it and made bread and cooked, to that fighter and that young girl who spoke in the voice of the Palestinian revolution, the Muslim girl whose name was Ni'mah and who fell a martyr to a landmine. I want to remember all these revolutionaries: Brother George and Brother Nayif and Brother Isam and Brother Abu Iyad and Brother Jibril and Brother Abu al-Abbas, the beloved great fighter. Also Brother Samir -- I used to come and spend the night at your place. I want to remember all these things, Brother Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad. We remember them together because we (?not only) represent our brothers, but we represent this revolutionary vigor, this authentic base, brothers.

Brothers, what the blood of the martyrs has brought together cannot be divided by an Arab resolution or an American resolution. [applause] It is very important to know all these things with all their dimensions. Eytan bragged and said 2 days, 48 hours. His master Sharon and their second master Haig bragged. On this occasion I named the battle of Lebanon the slaughter of the Israeli generals; I mean [words indistinct] in front of us. I am not boasting; I only want to tell you the number of the generals who were wiped out [inshatbu] before us. Who wiped them out, my brothers? Not just the number of generals. I want to tell you that one day, the hero martyr Major General Sa'd Sayil -- may God rest his soul -- came to me and told me: Abu Ammar, have you read about the Merkava? Do you remember this conversation, brothers, in the Military Council? Abu Ahmad, do you remember? They told me, the martyr Sa'd Sayil told me: Have you read about the famous Merkava tank? I told him yes I had. He told me: They say that it has moving armor plates and moving walls [duru' mutaharrikah and judran mutaharrikah], that nothing can penetrate them. In fact I told him on that day: Let us submit this today to the Military Council. Indeed, at the Military Council at night we discussed the issue to find out what magic they had produced. As you know, they began to boast about it. All that I want to do is to remind Sharon and Eytan that the Merkava was wiped out by the heroes of the RPG. [applause] The heroes of the RPG, it was they who wiped them out, the heroes of the RPG, the heroes of the RPG. [applause] It is these heroes of the RPG, these, these. [applause]

Brothers, I will read you something quickly. Here is a list ranging from lieutenant colonel to general. I do not want to waste your time. Seven sections. When I say the massacre of the generals, I know what I am talking about. Here it is, with names, everyone's name and rank in the Israeli army. I say such words as, I mean we were not surprised that before the war the Israeli army was thought to be invincible and that they -- I mean the Israelis -- have in their possession the most modern weapons and the largest military arsenals. But I want to say one thing, and hear me my friends, hear me: If the Israeli army is considered the spearhead force -- I mean the head of a spear -- in the American rapid interventionist force [RDF], in its capacity as a strong army, trained and organized, combatant, no one can defeat it. Well, after the Lebanon war, brothers, things have changed.

I say such words in front of the military men before me, Algerian military men, Arab military men, friendly military men. I say [words indistinct] as you are aware, NATO has reconsidered the question of how to benefit from tanks in the next war in the wake of the Beirut battle and after the RPG heroes from Sabra and Shatila to Ar-Rashidiyyah. When Hitler moved with the Panzer groups, the tank was considered the most important battle weapon until aircraft came. Aircraft have a tactical purpose but what occupies territory are tanks and men. Today they say: All right, if this has happened in Beirut, what might happen in Europe, especially now that cities have grown and run into one another? Out of the battles of Beirut useful military lessons emerged concerning this subject. Then we come once again to the army which they thought frightening and with which they frightened us. All right, facing two (?monkies) and a guard -- what are we? There was a child and a fidai'. Were there others? And you know what our weapon was -- it lasted for 78 days. Thus how useful is this in the global strategy? Therefore, it was crossed out from global strategy. The American decision now is to increase the Marine force in Lebanon. They want to raise it to 35,000. If they depended on this army, would they have brought 35,000? No, they wouldn't have. Thus we, thanks be to God, have taken this army out of global strategy. This is a present to our friends in the world. [applause]

I say this, brothers, because we must remember...They claim that only 500 were killed and 4,000 were wounded. No, I only wish to show you that they lie. In an official book by the director of Hadasah Hospital, (?he said) the hospital received -- this was as admitted by the director of the Hadasah Hospital -- this hospital, brothers, 2 months afterward, during my second visit to the Hadasah Hospital, this was 2 months after the end of this dirty war which was kindled in Lebanon, he said that the hospital had received 484 killed and 2,800 wounded, of which 113 were disabled and 50 were blinded. In just one hospital there were 484 dead and 2,800 wounded. If there are 16 military hospitals receiving dead and wounded, well, calculate yourself; I am not a mathemetician. Let one of you calculate in order to know how many. I say this, brothers, simply in order to state our figure is 10,621 dead and 21,561 wounded. These are the losses. They are more than the total losses of this army in all its wars with the Arab armies (?put together). [applause]

I say this, brothers, because some do not remember that -- for instance, General (Benson Shrayder) said: We have destroyed their cities, flattened villages and camps. All this in order to make them surrender to us, but they refuse. They prefer to fight to the death.

It is an honorable sign that one should fight one's enemy to the death or until victory. We are facing an enemy who rejects defeat, capitulation, and rejects subjugation. This is one of their testimonies, brothers. We lost 10 soldiers for each meter we advanced around Beirut.

I say this, brothers, because we must remember these things, remember them not only for ourselves but because of our children, so we can tell them: Children, this army is no bogey. By God, there is only one thing: If this army intimidates, frightens, instills fear in some, well, the revolution has no fear. It cannot be frightened or intimidated. It is the one to frighten, to intimidate, and to instill fear. [applause]

Brothers, I say this because they hold this against us. Everytime we speak they frighten us with their army. After the Beirut battle there were 355 operations through 2 February. Military communiques counted 355 operations in 3 months. That is at the rate of three operations per day. Time will tell. The battle of Beirut lasted 79 days. However, war has its ups and downs. This is a very important point. War has its ups and downs. They must understand this. They should not think that the operation has stopped. The war has not stopped. What has finished was the Beirut battle, which lasted 79 days. This must be understood.

I say this because we want to remember what they have been saying. This great army which they use to frighten us -- I wish all the Arab nation was with me to see my brothers -- all are my brothers -- by God, from my brother George to Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Nayif [Hawatimah]. He would say: Do not go to the frontlines. And they used to say to him: Why, is there something frightening at the front? There is nothing frightening at the front. They used to see the placard which said: Fedayeen, do not open fire on us. This great army is in the minds of others but not in our minds. This great army, I remember, in one of its communiques said that it advanced toward the Museum, the Iliyas Museum axis. Is that correct, Abu? We are naming our brothers in the joint command, the Palestinian-Lebanese joint command, so they can remember. [applause]

I recall that this great army, in the battle of 4 August, said: We advanced -- a military communique they issued said -- we advanced 10 meters. All right, if the tank is 13.60 meters long, what then are the 10 meters? Are they moving cannon forward? I want to say these things, my brothers, because there are some people who cannot be intimidated. Time will tell. I say this with great awareness and accuracy. It is not an emotional talk. The last telegram I received from the heroes in the (Ash-Shuqayb) fortress said: They will not pass. They will pass only over our dead bodies.

I could read to you something else but I do not want to waste a lot of your time. He said: We announced the occupation of the castle, but we did not find one single wounded person in it; they were all martyred. I bow before this hero who sent me the cable in the name of his brothers, and before the (?37) who defended this fortress, brothers, because they were not a huge army -- 37 fighters, 37 heroes of the Arab nation. [applause] Indeed, they passed only over their dead bodies. Thirty-seven heroes. The Israelis talk about (?courage). Thirty-seven heroes showed (?courage) in the (Ash-Shuqayb) fortress. Thirty-seven heroes, all of them martyrs from the joint forces, it is this that we are proud of.

On Beirut's rubbish dump -- do you know Beirut's rubbish dump? When you enter Khaldah from the airport road there is next to the airport a rubbish dump called the Beirut rubbish dump. On Beirut's rubbish dump I had 62 martyrs from the joint forces, brothers, among them 18 officers. So we know how fierce the fighting was; how fierce the fighting was, fighting over every centimeter and not over overy meter. There was fighting [words indistinct]. I say this, brothers; this we must remember. We remember those who broke the siege.

One day I received a message and my brothers remember. (Abu Maytham) remembers because it came to him at sea. I received a message that a boat containing ammunition was coming to us. A boat was coming, and the sea was filled with the 6th Fleet and the Israeli fleet. Yet this boat kept coming and going from Tripoli until [word indistinct], coming and going until the last day when I received the message. I bow before this hero sailor who went in this boat. [applause] The patrols had not stopped, brothers. If I want to talk, I will talk about many things, but I only want to say that when I talk about all these matters concerning the miracle, the miracle was not a word. The miracle was this doctor who was underground. We built 37 underground hospitals; we dug 17 wells for water to drink; Remember Brother 'Ali who [word indistinct] the siege. I want to remember these heroes of the Egyptian forces: (Nadya) and her group and (Fathiyah) and her group who broke through the siege to be with us, from our heroic Egyptian people. I want to remember them. I want to remember all those people who performed this miracle. I want to remember, brothers, those or those [words indistinct] and the sleepless nights and days looking after her children in the shelter enduring the bombing day and night, all kinds of bombing. Then if she received a loaf of bread she said: Thank you, brothers. I want to remember that after the vanguards who hit [words indistinct] I went to see the families of those martyrs. They said to me: Abu 'Ammar, do not express condolences. We ask one thing from you: Do not bow to these. We want to die with you. I want to remember all those one by one. They remain in my memory. I remember them individually and person by person, child by child, woman by woman, man by man. This long and great miracle!

One day I was sitting with some of the Lebanese commanders. They said to me -- one of them said to me, and there were some of my brothers with me -- he said: Abu 'Ammar, what are you waiting for? If there is help on its way in a week's time, we shall bear the danger with you. If a change of strategy is going to take place in a month's time, we will endure, but we do not know what you are counting on. I said to him: Let me tell you on what I am relying. Our nation has been used to fighting for 2 or 3 days before their towns fall. This has happened in the West Bank, Gaza, Sinai, the Golan, and in southern Lebanon. For once, at least, one man stood up to the French. He was (Yusuf al-'Adhmah). He was aware that he could not defeat the French, but he stood up to face them so that it could not be said that Damascus had fallen to the French without anybody trying to defend it. [applause] It was for this same reason that I and my brother members of the joint forces are fighting, so that it could not be said that Beirut could be stormed without tens, hundreds, and even thousands falling martyred in the fight for it. When I said this, brothers, this great honorable man cried and said: Abu 'Ammar, we are prepared to shed our blood with you. [applause]

It is very important for us to understand these matters. I do not talk off the top of my head. I relate facts so that we all remember what is happening now. Whom did they attempt to frighten? When I left and went to Fes, my brothers must remember, [Algerian Foreign Minister] Brother Ben Soudah was present in the hall. Brother Abu al-Lutf and Abu al-'Abd were also present. I told them that our Arab nation squandered the best opportunity to occupy and liberate Jerusalem. Unfortunately the opportunity has been lost.

One day -- and this is something that Brothers Abu Iyad, Abu al-Hawl, and Abu al-Lutf may recall -- when we met with the martyr of our Arab nation, Martyr 'Abd an-Nasir [applause], he said: All I want from you is to keep one Israeli regiment engaged. I want the whole resistance to tie down one regiment. I recalled these words as we were engaging eight and one-half divisions, and as they themselves have admitted, 500 commanders, in addition to the entire fleet. I mean, if we know the Israeli army consists of 11 divisions and if we take away 8 and 1/2 divisions, [words indistinct] 3 divisions remain.

Why do I say that we lost the chance to liberate Jerusalem? It is my right to say, for history's sake, that we lost the chance to liberate Jerusalem. But despite this, the (?chance) has not yet gone [word indistinct] and our brothers, with the Syrian forces with us, 46 percent, we can fight and reach Jerusalem and reach Gaza. This, brothers, must be made known. I say this for history's sake so that we do not fall into the great illusion, so that we do not fall into calculations which [word indistinct] they created them for us. They try to intimidate and frighten us. Thanks be to God, we are not frightened or intimidated.

I would like to say one thing to all my brothers in this revolution: When we invited our people, we did not invite them to a wedding or a picnic; we invited them to the long popular liberation war. We were truthful in those words. As my brother George [words indistinct], we were loyal. When we said the long popular liberation war, we proved that the long popular liberation war was able to stand fast before the enemy for 88 days. It is very important to know this. Why, brothers? Because we were truthful. [Words indistinct] if we are to put weapons together, our Arab weapons are more than the Israelis. We have more people than they do. We have more money than they do. What is wrong then? One thing is wrong -- the political decision, the political decision, the political decision. [applause]

Therefore, I say to my people in the occupied territory: I know the land is being eroded every day. The land is being eroded every day -- confiscation, settlement-building, barbed wire. Every day there are persecutions, new taxes, expulsion, arrests. But despite all this, I send them a message from the heroes of the RPG's to the heroes of the stones in my homeland, to those heroes in my homeland who turned the stones in my homeland into timebombs that frightened this enemy and his military machine.

I convey to them a message from the children who throw stones to the children who fire RPG's in my country. The children who throw stones in my country turned the stones in my country into timebombs which frightened this enemy and this military machine. I say to them that this child is the child of the RPG and that the stone-throwing children are the ones who score victory; they are the victorious generation. [applause] Therefore, we have an appointment with them. We have a date with them. Dawn is not far off. Dawn is coming, dawn is coming; dawn is coming, dawn is coming, dawn is coming. Victory is coming, victory is coming, victory is coming. [applause] Yes, victory is coming, and dawn is coming.

Before the war, you remember, my brother, I said that we are going into the tunnel. Some people said then that Abu 'Ammar was scaremongering a little bit. We said there will be an accordion war. They said that it looks as if Abu 'Ammar likes music. Naturally, nobody believes these things until they happen [passage indistinct] We entered the tunnel. Nevertheless, I said something else. I said that I see light at the end of the tunnel. At the end of the tunnel, I see not only light but also jubilation, the minarets of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, and the walls of Jerusalem. This what I see, brothers. I see a window looking on the day of victory. [applause] And now, after we managed to get out -- and not all that happened was a disaster although some people looked at it that way. By God, some newspapers, even some of the patriotic newspapers are following this line -- that is, that the revolution was hit and the revolution is finished. The PLO is liquidated. I ask them: How? The other day a newsman was saying to me: You have been in Lebanon near -- near it [Palestine] -- and you have left it. I want to tell them that I consider every place which is 1 foot away from Jerusalem to be far away from my homeland and my soil.

I want to tell them that whenever I am away from Jerusalem by a few inches, I regard it as being far from my homeland and land. Therefore, we do not want an alternative homeland, neither southern Lebanon nor the east bank. Our homeland is Palestine and its capital is Jerusalem. [applause] This should be known to all, near and far. Jerusalem is the capital city of our independent state. I say this, brothers, at this difficult time, knowing that they are trying, following the events in Beirut, to benefit from what they committed in Beirut. But I would like to tell them: No, we are not alone just for the sake of saying it. No. I saw the warmth and love and affection shown by our Arab nation and the masses of our Arab nation toward the heroes who left Beirut. I saw that; I felt it.

Some people -- and there are many who spread rumors, created out of the events, the tragedy in Lebanon -- claimed that the Arab nation was finished, that the Palestinian revolution was finished, and that the PLO was finished. No. We are experiencing a painful labor awaiting the great birth of this nation -- the entire Arab nation. I am part of this -- an indivisible part of it. It is part of me and I am part of it. I am part of this nation. Its victory is my victory.

I say this because there are many who cannot know these facts. I say that this Arab nation is great. And I tell those people -- I tell Begin and Reagan -- that this land is Arab, Arab, Arab, Arab: [applause] I tell them this so that there will be no one who will try to deceive or trick us. I have faith in my Arab nation and this has not been shaken.

This nation encountered the Tartars and defeated them. It was attacked by the Europeans -- I do not say the Crusaders because that is a European name -- and defeated them. It was attacked by the British and defeated them. It was attacked by the Portuguese and defeated them. It will also defeat the Zionists, no matter how long it takes, brothers. We are with the will of history, the will of the people, and the will of the nation. It is the will of God. We are victors. [applause]

I say this, brothers, so that everyone will hear, near and far, so they can hear at this critical period when we are shouldering responsibility. May God assist us in carrying this responsibility. This does not mean that I regard it as a simple responsibility. It is a responsibility that we have shouldered; our people should shoulder it. Our people have placed this responsibility on us. The stone-throwing child and the child carrying the RPG have placed this responsibility on us. Every child in our Arab nation has placed this responsibility on us.

I know that times are hard and there is [word indistinct] and after the military battle there is a political one. There is a political (?attack). We must understand this talk. They want to (?assault) us politically. They want to (?assault) us, and Reagan's luck is that there are many dishonorable people who have [word indistinct] on him [words indistinct]. They want to (?assault) us politically, but I say only one thing: Who said we are afraid? By God, we are not afraid. We enter our military battle, we enter our political battle with the same will and with the same confidence and pride, the pride of revolutionaries, their will and their confidence. We enter all battles and let the wind shake the mountain. This should be understood. By God, no [word indistinct] was shaken.

Some people talk -- plans here and plans there. War was here and plans were here [words indistinct]. Welcome, we will face them for as long as is needed. Their plans facing ours, their war confronting ours, their fighters facing ours, and the one who shouts before the other [words indistinct]. I, my God, may have become old. Notice, my hair has turned gray. But I say I want to continue until the last bullet in my revolver, until the last drop of my blood, with all these heroes and free men I saw (?before) me. [applause]

Brothers, in this vast sea we know that we are approaching a difficult political period [word indistinct] and there are many plans. How will we deal with them? We will deal with them with the same confidence and ability and with the same intelligence. Our brother -- I forget his name -- Habib, Philip, Philip Habib [laughter] used to claim that he was one of the negotiators with our friends, the Vietnamese. All right, for 3 months, what did he get from us? Do you want me to tell you what they proposed? They proposed that we leave with the 6th Fleet. They proposed that we leave under a white flag. They offered to let us leave under the flag of the Red Cross. They proposed to us that the leadership should leave. They made all these offers. Yet, as you know, the conditions which we laid down at the joint Lebanese-Palestinian command were the ones which we implemented.

On the boat I wrote a testimonial in the name of the joint forces in my capacity as their commander. With me I had a short stick. I handed it to my brother, Walid Junblatt, saying to him: Take over command in Beirut. [applause] I say this because it is very important, because these are not mere words, brothers. We, as I have said, were not compelled to leave by Sharon or Begin.

I say this in order to tell you that one day I received a journalist, whose name I do not want to mention, who told me: I was at the Alexandera Hotel in Al-Ashrafiyah, and there I met with Sharon, who gave me a message to you. Will you take it?

I replied: Yes, of course. He said: Sharon advises you that tomorrow at 0700 you should hoist the white flag over (Bourj al-Mur). Do you know (Bourj al-Mur)? We naturally know where (Bourj al-Mur) is, and for the benefit of those who do not know we say that it is the highest building in West Beirut -- steadfast Beirut, the Beirut of the epic, the Beirut of the miracle, the 9 and 1/4 square miles.

Once I landed at an Arab airport and told them that this airport was bigger than the 9 and 1/4 square miles we were in. I said to the journalist: Is that the message? He replied: Yes. I then said to him: Can you take a message from me to him? He said yes. I had with me (Fathi) and [name indistinct] and (Kamal) and (Yusuf). I said to the journalist: Do you see these officers around me? I have instructed them that if at any moment I weaken they must shoot me and continue the struggle. [applause] I say this, my brothers, in order to tell them that Sharon, the killer of women and children, was unable to achieve his objective.

When we left, we handed over this city to the multinational force and 54 UN observers. They abandoned their honor at Sabra and Shatila. They could not enter these camps when the fighters were there, when the fighters were there. When the fighters left, they entered and committed their atrocities. Why did they choose Sabra and Shatila? Why, brothers? Because the headquarters of the leadership was there -- the headquarters of the joint leadership -- the Lebanese-Palestinian leadership. What shall I say? You saw the message I received from the children of Sabra and Shatila -- I mean the cables that are in the possession of my Brother Abu al-'Abd. You saw them.

I would like to say that I used to receive many messages. Some people who object to contacts may forgive these contacts between me and Begin. One day Begin sent me a message through a journalist who said to me: I was with Begin and he is astonished. He wanted me to convey this message to you. I said to him: Tell me; give me the message. He was hesitating. He said: Begin would like to say to you: Are you besieging Tel Aviv or am I besieging Beirut? What are you counting on? Why do you not surrender now? I told him: So long as you have carried his message to me, then you should carry my message to him. Tell him: The fact that I am under siege in Beirut is throwing a siege around Tel Aviv and the capital cities. This should be realized. [applause]

I say this, brothers, at this important time when we shall remain always and forever, as we said in 1974 when I went to the United Nations; I said: I have come with an olive branch in one hand for the sake of a just and lasting peace that takes into consideration international legality and the established national rights of our people, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to set up an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. In the other hand I carry the rifle of a revolutionary. We, brothers, despite all the massacres in Sabra and Shatila, did not drop the olive branch. Why? Because we have historic (?vision); we have a historic heritage; we do not view matters from the narrow angle that is used by Sharon, Begin, Shamir, and this Israeli military gang. I just want to say to them: Where are the tyrants in history? Where is Hitler? Where is Mussolini? Where is Attila? Where is Hulagu?

All the tyrants have gone and the peoples remain. Therefore, these will go and the peoples will remain, and the land will remain for its owners. Our Arab land will remain Arab. I say this, brothers, and I want to salute our friends, all our friends -- our friends in the Muslim states, in the African states, the nonaligned states, the socialist community headed by the friendly Soviet Union [applause]. I want to salute our friends in People's China [applause] who gave to us generously. I want to salute every child in our Arab nation who lined up to donate blood for us. I want to salute them all from the (?Euphrates) to Aden. I want to salute all our friends in Latin America, headed by our beloved friend Fidel Castro, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. [applause] I want to tell him that we want to meet together, with another friend of our people and revolution: this struggler Indira Gandhi. [applause]

I want to salute all of them. I want to salute these people because we would not have been able to convene our conference, Brother Cherif [Messaadia, member of FLN Political Bureau], and arrive here had it not been for this wide support we received from these friends and allies, from these people who are dear to our hearts, from these brothers. We are not alone. No, we are strong by virtue of all this alliance, this friendship, and this fraternity. Allow me, please allow a fighter in the Palestinian revolution, in the name of the RPG-carrying child and the stone-throwing child, to say to my Brother President Chadli Benedjedid and to our people in Algeria, to our kith and kin in Algeria, and to the heroes of Algeria: Thank you from our hearts to your hearts. [applause]

In your name, I would like to salute the heroes in the prisons in the occupied territories -- our occupied territories -- [applause] and would like to tell Salah [Khalaf]: Please tell your brothers at Al-Ansar camp that we have a date with them very soon because we have prisoners and we want to release them according to the Geneva convention. There are six prisoners with Fatah and two with the [PFLP] General Command. We want to solve this and negotiations are now taking place -- soon. We did note these prisoners haphazardly; we paid with our blood. [sentence as heard] We want to release them according to the Geneva convention. I salute all of these prisoners in the occupied territories and tell them that we have a date to meet soon and to continue the march, all of the march.

I would like to say to those who have remained in Sabra and Shatila, at Ar-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hilwa, [name indistinct], Burj ash-Shamali, at Burj al-Barajinah, and all of our camps in Lebanon: You may encounter pressure, but we will never abandon you. God is my witness. Just as I said the other day in the name of my brothers, by God, we will never allow this. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and he who commits injustice is to be blamed. [applause]

Last but not least, brothers, I pray to Almighty God to assist us in this difficult task. We know that it is not an easy task, but one hand cannot applaud. We can do something all together. Therefore, if my brothers in the Executive Committee allow me, I say to my brothers in the PNC, to our people, to our Arab nation, and to our friends the following: We need every prayer and affection, every assistance, force, and breath because with this breath, this force, this affection, and warmth, we want to proceed along our path -- the sole path leading to Palestine, paved with the blood of the martyrs. We know that they lost Palestine for the cheapest price. In order to regain it, we have to sacrifice a martyr for every inch.

My Brother Brigadier Tariq [al-Khadra, commander of Hittin forces], yesterday. [applause] I tell everyone that manhood requires that we make our bodies a bridge for our comrades to pass over. [applause] I would also like to say, Tariq, that this year, which I have called the year (?of stone-throwing) [words indistinct] and the year of light, hope, and fire, this year the war has called on you. So respond. This is inevitable.

God has bought from the believers their souls and wealth and promised them paradise if they fight for God's sake, killing and being killed. [Koranic verse] This is a promise made in the Torah, the Bible, and the Koran. He who has fulfilled his pledge to God should rejoice. These are great words. God has spoken the truth.

'Arafat at Closed Session

NC221314 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] London, Feb 22 (AFP) -- Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat has accused Palestinian hardliners of "digging the grave of the Palestinian people," the Saudi newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported today. Citing a statement attributed to Mr 'Arafat during a closed session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile that is currently meeting in Algiers, the paper quoted the PLO leader as warning the hardliners that they could cause the PLO to be held responsible for the failure to reach a peaceful settlement with Israel. The behavior of the "hawks", he told the gathering, could lead to "a continuation of genocide against our people."

He was reported to have urged the PNC to demonstrate its "reason and realism", as the very survival of the Palestinian movement was now at stake following the PLO's withdrawal last year from Beirut in the face of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "If we do not reach a reasonable formula and show understanding," Mr 'Arafat is quoted as warning the PNC, "the whole world will have abandoned us in a year or two." But he stressed that "to speak of modernation does not signify preaching tolerance at any price."

Turning to those in the council who are demanding the total rejection of a peace plan put forward at least September's Arab League summit in Fes, Morocco, Mr 'Arafat reportedly declared that "the invasion of Lebanon was the price the Palestinians paid for the failure of the first Arab League summit in Fes (in November 1981.)"

The summit last September approved a plan calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. But the Fes plan also urged United Nations guarantees for the right of all states in the region to live in security, a position that some observers said embodied a tacit recognition of Israel.

Tariq al-Khadra Reappointed

LD230738 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, rescinded [algha] a decision to dismiss Brigadier Tariq al-Khadra, commander of Hittin forces, who resides in Syria. He announced this at the final meeting of the PNC when he shook hands with the Palestinian military command in the midst of applause by the members of the council.

GULF AFFAIRS

QATARI, KUWAITI, UAE MINISTERS ARRIVE IN RIYADH

GF221258 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani arrived today in Riyadh to attend the meeting of the GCC oil ministers which will be held later on today. Kuwaiti Oil Affairs Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and the accompanying delegation also arrived in Riyadh to attend the meeting. UAE petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Manli' Sa'id al-'Utaybah and the accompanying delegation also arrived in Riyadh. The ministers were received by Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and a number of senior officials in the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry.

Upon arrival the Qatari finance and oil ministry noted he believes that a noticeable reducing of the current oil prices is inevitable in order to get out of the current crisis which OPEC is experiencing. In a similar statement, the Kuwaiti oil affairs minister noted that Gulf oil ministers will discuss during their meeting what concerns their countries with regard to the oil policy. He expressed hope that positive and desirable results will be reached. The UAE petroleum and natural resources minister noted upon arrival that this meeting is taking place in order to discuss recent events in the oil market in light of the latest developments, particularly after some of the producing countries -- within and out of OPEC -- reduced their oil prices. He noted that the ministers will discuss and review these matters to adopt whatever is necessary in order to preserve our interests and markets.

Oil Ministers on GCC Meeting

LD221233 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb, (SPA) -- Qatari Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has expressed his belief in the need for a considerable cut in the price of oil.

The minister was speaking upon his arrival in Riyadh today to attend meetings of the GCC oil ministers. He said that the purpose of the meeting is to find a way out of the current crisis through which OPEC is passing.

In a similar statement, UAE Oil Minister Dr Mani 'ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah said that the Riyadh meeting will discuss the latest developments in the oil market in the light of the decision by some oil-producing countries inside and outside OPEC to cut their oil prices. He added that the Riyadh conference will adopt all the necessary measures to safeguard the interests and markets of the Arab Gulf countries.

Before leaving Abu Dhabi for Riyadh today, Al-'Utaybah pointed out that a cut in oil prices is likely. In this context, he called for a new OPEC price structure, affirming that the question of differentials, which caused the Geneva OPEC meeting's failure, is still there and that the time has come to find a radical solution for this problem. He said that when dealing with the situation in the oil market, we cannot separate between the questions of prices, quotas, and differentials. He said the present time is not favorable for holding an emergency OPEC meeting and that first preparations for it should be made.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah expressed his hope that the Riyadh conference will come up with positive results that are beneficial for all participants. He said the meeting will discuss all matters of interest to the participating countries in the field of oil policies.

Yamani: Talks To Continue

LD222048 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (SPA) -- Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, said that the talks conducted today by the oil ministers of Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, and the Kingdom concentrated on the price of oil. After the second meeting of the ministers, his excellency said the talks will continue tonight and tomorrow, Wednesday, in order to reach decisions regarding prices and to lay down a joint viewpoint.

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS LINK -- Dr Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, today inaugurated the project linking the Kingdom with Qatar and the UAE through a microwave network of telecommunications and television transmission by making a telephone call to his Qatari counterpart 'Abdallah as-Suwaydi. In a statement to SPA after the call, the minister said the project's line is approximately 300 km. It links Saudi Arabia with Doha through Al-Hufuf and Salwa where it diverges to the UAE and can be linked with all the other Gulf countries. In the event of a communications tie-up with other Arab and non-Arab countries, the line can be an outlet for the Kingdom through Qatar and vice versa. He said that the project has about 960 circuits, 300 of which are between the Kingdom and Qatar and other 300 between the Kingdom and the UAE. There are 120 circuits which will serve the villages scattered between Al-Hufuf and Salwa and the rest will be a reserve in case of expansion. He affirmed that Saudi Arabia can directly communicate with these countries instead of using a satellite. The project's returns will be divided equally between the Kingdom, Qatar and the UAE according to the direction of each call. [Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 83 GF]

YAR

YAR, NICARAGUA TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

GF220520 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Report on YAR-Nicaraguan joint statement issued at conclusion of visit by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman to YAR 19-21 February]

[Text] A joint statement was issued today at the conclusion of a visit by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman to the YAR and his talks with the brother foreign minister and member of the Standing Committee. The statement said that the two sides agreed to establish diplomatic relations and to strengthen and develop these relations for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples within the framework of their common committment to the UN Charter and the objectives and principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

After reviewing the situation in the Middle East and the developments resulting from the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the two sides strongly condemned the aggressive expansionist policy pursued by the Zionist entity against the Arab nation and the Zionist occupation of the Arab lands and its flagrant aggression against the sovereignty of the Lebanese lands.

They demanded the immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese lands and called for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

The two sides also firmly affirmed their support for the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people for the sake of attaining all their national legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the current meetings of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers and expressed hope that these meetings will achieve positive results and advantages that enable the Palestinian people to continue their heroic struggle for their just and legitimate cause. The two sides also strongly condemned Israel's interference in the affairs of some of Latin American countries and peoples and its arms supply to some of the region's countries which threatens their security and stability. They stressed the necessity of maintaining the independence and sovereignty of the region's countries against any foreign interference that threatens their freedom and undermines their security.

The YAR and Nicaragua affirmed their firm adherence to the principles and objectives of nonalignment and the positive neutrality movement, the necessity of supporting this movement and strengthening its role in the international arena. Regarding the seventh nonaligned summit which will be held in complicated international circumstances, the two sides stressed the necessity of maintaining the unity and solidarity of the nonaligned countries and the necessity of obviating any problems or obstacles facing them. They expressed hope that the upcoming conference of the movement will reach constructive and positive decisions that contribute to easing the sharpness of international tension, to achieving international peace and security, and setting up a new formula for international relations that is based on mutual respect and understanding among the different countries and on equality for all countries.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto left San'a' today. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY before his departure, he described his visit as being successful and expressed happiness and pleasure at the results of his visit. He said that the Nicaraguan revolution has been looking forward for 3 years to establishing diplomatic relations with our republic after the independence of Nicaragua which gave us the right to select our friends and the countries with which we can establish diplomatic relations.

He expressed his great satisfaction at the decision of the two countries to establish diplomatic relations between them. He said that this day, 21 February, the day of the establishment of diplomatic relations, is an important and great day for our country, because it corresponds to the 49th anniversary of the armed struggle in Nicaragua. He concluded his statement by expressing pleasure at the cordial reception and hospitality accorded to him during this important visit.

He was seen off at the airport by Brothers 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Ahmad al-'Iryani, under secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and a representative of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

MUBARAK RETURNS REASSURED ON SUDAN SECURITY

NC221826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1814 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Khartoum tonight after he co-chaired with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri the meetings of the first session of the Supreme Council for Integration.

The president was met on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha, and senior state civilian and military officials.

Answering a question on his return on whether he is reassured about the security conditions in Sudan, the president said: As long as President Numayri is reassured, we feel reassured.

AL-BAZ MAKES STATEMENT ON MUBARAK-NUMAYRI TALKS

NC221608 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (MENA) -- Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has emphasized that Egypt and Sudan will cooperate in repelling any aggression or subversive action to which either of them is subjected.

In a statement he made in Khartoum today, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt and Sudan will not engage in war against an Arab state, but that they will ward off aggression if it is committed against either of them.

He added that Egypt and Sudan cannot possibly cooperate with a foreign state against an Arab state.

Dr al-Baz said in his statement that Egypt and Sudan are not part of any major power's strategy. This is a general rule. We are part of the Arab African strategy, and our objective is to protect this area against any foreign interference and all causes of instability. Dr al-Baz emphasized: Our aim is to protect stability on our land and the land of our neighboring Arab states, so that stability will prevail in the area.

He said that cooperation between Egypt and the United States is bilateral and that it does not digress into a regional or strategic course. We are not a party to any regional bloc against anyone.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary pointed out that the relationship between Egypt and Sudan is of a special character and that it is not a bloc against any other side or state.

On today's meetings of the Supreme Council for Integration, Dr al-Baz said that Presidents Mubarak and Numayri are interested in the existence of channels for the achievement of the objectives of integration in a scientific manner and the accomplishment of tangible achievements which the people in the north [Egypt] and the south [Sudan] can feel. The important thing is not increasing the members or having so many establishments, but that there should be a realistic program of action, based on sound foundations, according to which integration will be accomplished in two basic points: gradual elimination of anything that impedes movement between and residence in the two countries, and the acceleration of the rate of development in the two countries by combining part of our resources and obtaining additional resources from other Arab and international sources.

Dr al-Baz concluded his statement by pointing out: Past experience has given us a chance to detect loopholes so that we can avoid them and so that integration will have an effect on the citizens in the two countries. This is what President Mubarak and Numayri are thinking of and working for.

Al-Baz on Integration Council

NC221917 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) -- Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has stated that all the decisions necessary to start work in the integration organs were issued at today's meeting of the Supreme Council for Integration.

In a statement he made following his return from Khartoum tonight, Al-Baz said: We will concentrate on the organs that will lead to the increase of production in both countries and on facilitating contacts between them.

Al-Baz added that the Integration Fund will start its activities on 1 March. He pointed out that all the integration organs will work diligently in the coming period. He said: We hope this will lead to more production and contacts between the people in the North and South of the valley.

MUBARAK ASKS PNC FOR 'OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION'

LD202226 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has addressed an appeal to the members of the PNC, now meeting in Algeria, calling on them to adopt an objective resolution based on reality with regard to the determination of relations between the Palestinians and Jordan so as to exploit the precious opportunity that presents itself at present and the current conditions in the area, to reach a quick solution to the Palestine question.

In a statement to the newspaper May, to be published tomorrow, Monday, President Mubarak said that the cards are now in our hands as Arabs and not in anybody else's. We must not expect anyone else to solve our problmes for us. We must take the initiative and act, not react.

President Mubarak said that the most important thing at present is to adopt a positive Palestinian resolution which will prevent the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, through the acceptance of the peace challenge, and to prepare a formula with Jordan, acceptable to both sides, with regard to the determination of the relations between Jordan and the Palestinian entity when established. We here in Egypt believe that there can be no radical contradiction between the interests of one Arab side and another Arab side.

Further on Mubarak's Appeal

NC210811 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- In his statement to the newspaper MAY, President Mubarak said: We again exhort the various segments of our Palestinian brothers to appreciate the importance of the time factor and that the coming months will be fateful ones. Furthermore, we believe that no Arab or Palestinian can shoulder the responsibility for the loss of the West Bank and Gaza. So long as the key to the situation is now in our own hands, there is no justification for refraining from, or for fearing, action.

On the contrary, it is a historic necessity for us to take the first step that will inevitably and ultimately lead the Palestinian people to the exercising of their right to self-determination.

The president added that Egypt, which was the first to advocate the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and which has stood alongside this people throughout the phases of their struggle, hopes that the Palestinian brothers will make decisions commensurate with their responsibility that will face up to this serious challenge.

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON DEMOCRACY, EMERGENCY LAW

GF211608 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 20 Feb 83 pp 14, 15, 17

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-WATAN editor in chief Jasim al-Mutawwa' at the Presidential Palace in Cairo -- no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Does the fact that the opposition continues to raise the issue of change constitute a source of anxiety for you?

[Answer] No, not at all. I do not react to such things. Constitutionally, I am responsible to the people. I will not submit to any opinion I do not agree with. If I listen to the talk of each of them, who will eventually be brought to account, I or they? If they are to be brought to account, this is another issue.

[Question] Is it possible -- with the implementation of the new 5-year plan which is viewed as godsend -- to think of forming a coalition government that will include all movements and that will be based on competence?

[Answer] Do all members of the Cabinet which I formed belong to the National [Democratic] Party? No. I chose good elements from the Party and chose other elements who have nothing to do with any parties. This issue does not preoccupy me. Besides, what is a coalition government? If someone has a good idea, why does he not convey it to us? What is the reason for a coalition government? What does a coalition government mean?

[Question] Many issues -- including democracy -- are being raised in regard to the internal situation in Egypt. We are aware of the emergency situation in which you assumed power. However, after almost 18 months, is not it time for more democracy that would allow for new parties and more representation by the existing parties which oppose various political decisions, and abolish what can be termed as emergency rules and regulations?

[Answer] More democracy with new parties? I do not see any need for new parties at present. We are facing essential issues. How many parties are there in the superpowers, with their majestic strength? How many parties are there in the United States? Two, three. Two main parties. How many parties are there in the England? France? The FRG? Shall I give permission so that new parties, maybe as many as 20 parties can appear on the political scene and for the country to become divided into 20 sections? Is this in the interest of the country? Every good citizen in Egypt is convinced that it is enough at present to have four parties so that we can move forward on the road of economic progress to raise the people's standard of living.

[Question] What about the emergency law?

[Answer] The emergency law can be enforced and abolished at any time.

I challenge anyone to say that we have apprehended somebody or we have used one clause of the emergency law against somebody. However, after the incident which took place [As-Sadat's assassination] and for the sake of quick measures, to preserve security and guarantee the country's safety, it was necessary to enforce the emergency law. This law has lost its teeth. I have even forgotten that there is an emergency law. This is true. No clause of the emergency law has been used; nor has anybody been arrested so far under this law. The whole thing is a matter of politics. The emergency law was approved by the People's Assembly. All emergency laws complement the constitution. The call to abolish the post of the socialist prosecutor is a strange one. How can it be abolished when it is part of the constitution and when it was approved by the People's Assembly? Besides, is there anything new? The fact is that certain people want to change all this to achieve their own interests, and if these people assume power, they will enforce more stringent laws than those existing now. Believe me, those who are on the shore imagine that they can swim very well. As long as they are not in power, they imagine that they are the swimming champions and they talk very glibly.

CAIRO RADIO SCORES SHARON'S NEW APPOINTMENT

NC201949 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Brahim Wahbi commentary]

[Text] Ari'el Sharon, who was condemned for the massacres in Lebanon, was appointed the day before yesterday a minister in a ministerial committee concerned with the negotiations with Lebanon and a minister at the Defense Council, the highest organ in Israel concerned with making military and political decision. This means that Sharon has been rewarded by being given more important posts and being provided with better opportunities for confrontation with Arab policy regarding both the military situation and the political situation as a whole, including the probabilities of war and peace.

The fact is that his is not considered a challenge to the Arabs inasmuch as it is a challenge to the whole world, including the United States, which urges Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and adhere to peace. The person responsible for the massacres in Lebanon has become responsible for war and peace in as far as Israel is concerned.

WEST DEPARTS 22 FEB AFTER MILITARY TALKS

NC221540 Cairo MENA in English 1337 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (MENA) -- Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defence Francis West left here this afternoon with his accompanying delegation, winding up a three-day visit to Egypt.

The American official held while here military talks on Egypt's requirements of arms and American equipment and reviewed the implementation of provious agreeements signed by the two countries.

Assistant Minister of Defence Major General Majid al-Far saw West off at the airport.

REPORTAGE ON KING HUSAYN'S TRIP TO EAST EUROPE

Visit to Romania

For Bucharest and Amman reportage on the visit to Romania by King Husayn, see the Romania section of the 17 February and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Visit to Yugoslavia

For Belgrade reportage on the visit to Yugoslavia by King Husayn, see the Yugoslavia section of the 18 February and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

SAUDI PAPER SAYS NEW GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED

GF221534 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 19 Feb 83 p 1

[Kamil Hariz dispatch from Kuwait]

[Text] Reliable Arab sources are talking about an expected cabinet shake-up in Jordan. They say that Jordanian King Husayn is about to form a new Jordanian government that will be closer to more than one Arab party, especially to the PLO. These sources add that the new Jordanian government will be formed in order to react to the developments which occur in the political and military arenas. They say that the new government will include Jordanian figures who are well known for their political stands and experience. These sources say that the new government will be formed to correspond to the conclusion of the PNC session and the expected developments of peace efforts in the region in March.

IRAQ TO BUILD OIL PIPELINE VIA JORDAN

JN181100 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Minister of Industry and Trade Walid 'Asfur has announced that Iraq has agreed in principle to export Iraqi crude oil through Jordan via a special pipeline that will be constructed for this purpose. The pipeline will be laid from the Iraqi oilfields across the northern part of Jordan to its terminal in 'Aqaba.

'Asfur, who was reviewing the outcome of the Jordanian delegation's talks in Baghdad, told a PETRA correspondent that the Jordanian and Iraqi sides have agreed to carry out new positive steps on the road of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries.

The minister added that the two sides agreed to continue with the project to transfer the Euphrates water to Jordan. The two sides reviewed the stages of the project, particularly those concerning the location of the pumping spot, the course of the water pipe, the pumping stations, and the electric energy necessary to operate these stations and to pump 160 million cubic meters to Jordan.

AL-JUMAYYIL CHAIRS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NC221241 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today chaired a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body in the presence of the ambassadors of the four states participating in the multinational force and a team of Lebanese and international officers. In addition to the political and military questions that are usually discussed at such meetings under the chairmanship of President al-Jumayyil and questions relating to the field operations of the Lebanese Army and of the international units, the conferees discussed the rescue operations in the mountain to free citizens trapped by snow there.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS END; NEXT ROUND IN KHALDAH

NC221231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Information Ministry delegation in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from the English -- live]

[Text] I want to remind first that at the opening of this morning's plenary session Dr David Kimche offered his condolences to the head of the Lebanese, Dr Antoine Fattal, on the victims of the snow storm that has been battering Lebanon at large.

The subcommittees, which ended their meetings half an hour ago, examined this morning topics on the agenda of talks and obstacles [that] seem to have appeared in the course of these negotiations, specially in the basic positions and stands of each delegation.

Dr Sayigh, official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, ended by saying that the American delegation was programmed to temper the atmosphere while trying to breach the differences still existing in the different viewpoints between the delegations.

I remind that the next meeting is expected on Thursday next in Khaldah, Lebanon. That was our last correspondence from Netanya.

AL-WAZZAN, SALIM, TUWAYNI COMMENT ON TALKS

NC221821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this afternoon met with Foreign Minister Eli Salim, negotiations coordinator General Ghassan Tuwayni and Lebanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Zafir al-Hasan. During the meeting, they reviewed the phases through which the tripartite negotiations have passed and the results accomplished.

Afterward, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: Everyone is in a hurry to reach results. We wanted to prepare ourselves for the meeting that will be held tonight following the return of the negotiating delegation and also to review matters in order to assess the results accomplished in the negotiations so far. We have to review all stances regarding the items under discussion to see how close or how far away we are from the acceptable points within the framework of the prospective agreement.

Asked about the points raised during the meeting, Minister Salim answered: We spoke about the weather, and it was very cold. He was also asked whether there are obstacles impeding the negotiations, to which he answered: It is really very cold and this cold wave had a great effect.

Ambassador Tuwayni said: We made a general review with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and we discussed our stance at present. In reply to a question, Tuwayni said: There will not be any early warning stations or any U.S. or Israeli military presence. Lebanon is insisting on its stance -- no partial withdrawals but a comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal.

FRANJIYAH VIEWS TALKS, GREATER BEIRUT OPERATION

NC230711 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah declared yesterday that the continuation of the negotiations [with Israel] has not and will not bring to Lebanon anything but disasters, especially if the Lebanese negotiator shows weakness and gave a one thousandth of what the enemy is demanding. At a press conference he held yesterday, President Franjiyah said control of greater Beirut is not enough for the restoration of normal life in all Lebanese areas. He expressed the hope that the day will come when the legal authority would be in control of all the Lebanese territory, as necessary.

CAMILLE SHAM'UN ON TALKS, RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC221858 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un returned to Beirut tonight. He said that the tripartite negotiations will never end if they continue at their present tempo. In an interview with the correspondent of the Israeli paper MA'ARIV in Cairo, where he was on a private visit, Sham'un said that Israel is requesting commitments from Lebanon that cannot be accepted. On the other hand, Sham'un supported the establishment of peaceful and normal relations between Lebanon and Israel, but not within the framework of a peace agreement, because it is impossible to ratify such an agreement under the present circumstances, as he put it.

Sham'un emphasized that the Lebanese authorities must assume the task of maintaining security throughout Lebanon to prevent armed Palestinian infiltration into Israel.

The correspondent asked: What will happen if it emerges later that the Lebanese Army cannot carry out this task? Sham'un emphasized that Lebanon would seek the aid of the multinational force in such an event. He categorically rejected the idea of Israel establishing early warning and observation stations in Lebanese territory. He said that if Israel is truly a friend of Lebanon, then it must respect its sovereignty and border and that if it does not do so, then the friendship between the two countries will not last long.

Regarding the Syrians, Sham'un said that they are not friends and cannot be trusted, but theat they will ultimately withdraw from Lebanon in accordance with the principle of simultaneous withdrawals. He laid part of the moral responsibility for the incidents in the Sabra and Shatila camps on the shoulders of Israel, but he expressed surprise over the uproar raised regarding this issue. He said that several other more atrocious massacres were committed by the Palestinians in Lebanon. The victims, he added, were Christians, but no side made a move and there was not even any talk about these massacres.

On arrival at Beirut airport from Cairo tonight, President Sham'un said that his visit was successful. He expressed the hope that diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Egypt will be restored soon. He asserted that Egypt is working to help Lebanon in the present circumstances.

HADDAD READY TO ACCEPT LEBANESE ARMY MEN

NC220727 Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Major Haddad, the leader of free Lebanon, has issued the following statement: In an exceptional manner, it is possible to accept Lebanese Army men of various ranks for active service, or retired army men of various ranks. However, it is a condition that these men are not over 48 years old and that they enjoy good health.

Furthermore, the free Lebanon command requests the following persons to report to the Khayrallah Salamah barracks on Wednesday, 23 February, at 0800: George Joseph 'Akrush, Ibrahim Khalil Yahya, Hammud Humud, Ibrahim Abu Zaki, Muhammad Husayn Fawwaz, Muhammad Ibrahim Dalal, Hashim al-Qal'ani, Fadil Maruf al-Halabi. 'Ali Ahmad Husayt, Habib Ilyas al-Khuri, Ahmad 'Abbas 'Abbas, Fadl Muhammad Qushur, Sham'un 'Azzam, Hani Salman Mundhir, Ghazi Abu Rashid and Ahmad Shihadah.

PRESS ON REAGAN GUARANTEES OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY

NC230856 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] AL-ANWAR discusses the new offer by the U.S. President and says: President Reagan offered that the United States would guarantee security along Israel's northern border after the Israeli army's withdrawal from Lebanon. However, Menahem Begin behaves as if it is Israel which guarantees the U.S. border and security in the Middle East. Moreover, his new defense minister, Moshe Arens, reiterated in Washington that his country trusts no foreign guarantees and does not want to hand over its security even to its friends. Former Defense Minister General Weizman has accused Begin of wanting Israel to be a ghetto and of preferring Israel to be a military fortress attacking its neighbors and basing its peace on deterrence instead of peaceful solutions and agreements. The paper concludes by saying: The prevailing feeling is that the U.S. President's proposal is a beginning, not an end.

AS-SAFIR discusses the negotiations and expects the return of Philip Habib, U.S. presidential envoy, to Beirut today or tomorrow accompanied by Ambassador Morris Draper after the end of the 17th round of negotiations. The paper quotes a senior Israeli official as saying the U.S. envoy discussed the question of U.S. guarantees with Israeli officials -- guarantees which the U.S. will provide in the south and in any agreement to be reached between Lebanon and Israel. The paper says the U.S. President's offer yesterday to guarantee Israel's northern borders in return for its withdrawal from Lebanon came as a result of Habib contacting Reagan in Washington.

On the subject of negotiations, AN-NAHAR says: The latest reports indicate that the Lebanese-U.S. [as heard] negotiations are continuing. The Lebanese and the Israeli negotiators expect the weather to reflect positively on the progress of the negotiations.

Ambassador Habib is not too far from the base of the negotiations. He is following the decisive negotiations. Despite the statement on the progress of the negotiations, the decisive phase requires extraordinary efforts and above all it requires the U.S. full partner to maintain his ability to exercise his influence inside and outside the negotiations hall. In the past weeks, the Reagan administration heard from several former U.S. officials that the negotiations need to be salvaged and that this seems impossible unless the U.S. President and his secretary of state participate directly in these efforts.

BA'TH PARTY STATEMENT ON IRAQ, LEBANON

JN222254 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today issued a statement on the occasion of 22 February 1958 [the declaration of unity between Egypt and Syria] and of 23 February 1966 [the assumption power in Syria of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party]. The Command affirmed in its statement that the Arab unity announced on 22 February 1958 was the victory garland which crowned the strugglers, the great fruit of victory, and the great hope for resurrecting the nation and its past glories and insuring strength and might for it.

The Regional Command described the 23 February 1966 movement as a revolutionary party rebellion against a reactionary rightwing mentality and an important revolutionary step which removed the flabby and senile leaders gathered in Baghdad from the path of the party and the people. These leaders reassumed power Baghdad in 1968 and, Saddam, Husayn, present the tyrant of Baghdad and butcher of the people, was a product of these leaders.

The command affirmed in its statement that since the glorious corrective movement under the leadership of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has made great efforts and many attempts to establish unity between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq, but to no avail because of the Baghdad rulers' regionalist stands and their disavowal of the slogans they advocated and about which they have deceived the people for many years.

In its statement the Command said the Baghdad today is allying itself with the Arab rightwing, working in complete coordination with the Jordanian regime, alienating the steadfastness and confrontation front, calling for the resumption of political and economic relations with Husni Mubarak under the Camp David accords, and calling on the Palestinians to be reasonable and accept the status quo. These are not accusations but real stands, actual practices and the declared policy of the fascist Saddam Husayn regime in Baghdad.

Concerning the war which Saddam is waging on the Iranian Revolution, the Regional Command affirmed in its statement that Saddam is responsible for the blood of the hundreds of thousands of victims from both peoples. He is responsible for destroying the two countries' economies and weakening them politically, economically, and militarily.

The Command said in its statement: What has revolutionary Iran done since the overthrow of the shah to make Saddam Husayn declared war on it and call on the rest of the Arabs to follow suit? Iran stood against the United States and Israel and told the Arabs: You and we are the sons of a single culture and most cooperate together in the interest of our common objectives.

The Command affirmed that Saddam Husayn was able to do what the United States could not do, and to achieve what the United States could not achieve, after the Iranian Revolution had rubbed its nose in the mud and uprooted U.S. agents from Iran just as it uprooted the U.S. espionage stations which were set up all along the border with the friendly USSR.

In its statement the command also confirmed that the brave Iraqi people, who have suffered from injustice, fascism, and bloodshed more than any other people throughout history, will put an end to this tyrant. The brave Iraqi Army will not remain silent while a theatrical farce is being enacted on its national soil and its people's blood is being spilled to satisfy the whims of a pervert or achieve the objectives of hostile plans. Progressive Arab Iraq will return a force for the Arabs in their confrontation with the enemies of the Arabs and a victory sword alongside its brothers on the frontlines with the enemy.

In its statement, the Regional Command dealt with the situation in Lebanon. It affimed that since the beginning of the Lebanese crisis, Syria has adopted a responsible pan-Arab [qawmi] stand. It has never failed to rush to the rescue of Lebanon or spare men or funds. The price which Syria paid along this path was heavy. Some people did not comprehended this stand. They could not understand that a country like Syria could pay millions for the sake of Lebanon and sacrifice thousands of its youths for the sake of Lebanon also. These people delved into discussions and analyses and concluded that Syria had ambitions in Lebanon. They spoke at great lengthy about these ambitions.

The Command also affirmed that the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon is linked to Lebanon's interests, security, unity, and independence and that these forces will all return, and not a single Syrian soldier will remain in Lebanon as soon as that country regains its freedom and expels the invaders from its territory.

Concerning the pressures which are brought to bear on the Lebanese Government to concede its freedom and sovereignty, the Regional Command affirmed that Arab Syria will not allow the enemies to detract from the sovereignty of that fraternal country or harm its organic link with the Arab nation. The Command also affirmed that Syria's national security is closely linked to Lebanon's security and that Syria will not permit the adoption of any security measures on Lebanese territory which could have a future effect on our national and pan-Arab security.

In its statement the Command warned those quarters which are trying to split the Arab-Israeli conflict or divert it from its objective. It affirmed that these quarters are conspiring against the nation and its future, principles, and the interests of the people. In its statement the Command affirmed that the Fes resolutions are the minimum program for the short-term objectives of the Arab nation and that revolutionary Syria will stand firmly and strongly against any plan which aims at a new Camp David or a line consistent with Camp David, whether it is the Reagan plan or any other plan which seeks to obliterate the cause of the Palestinian people and their right to their homeland.

LEBANESE ENVOY MAKES SECRET VISIT TO DAMASCUS

JN231017 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] We have just learned from our Damascus correspondent Louis Faris that Jean 'Ubayd, who previously visited Damascus as the envoy of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, arrived unexpectedly in Damascus yesterday evening on an unofficial secret visit. Jean 'Ubayd held secret contacts with ranking Syrian officials, including Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Chief of Staff General Hikmat ash-Shihabi and Chief of Military Intelligence Brigadier General 'Ali Duba. The talks touched on some matters related to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations as well as to speeding up the withdrawals from Lebanon. It is most likely that the anticipated visit to Damascus by Philip Habib, U.S. presidential envoy was discussed during the contacts.

IRANIAN DELEGATION BRINGS MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

JN201250 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at 1300 today received Ahmad 'Azizi, Iranian first deputy foreign minister. Present at the meeting was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar'. The two sides discussed the political state of affairs in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

Ahmed 'Azizi arrived in Damascus this morning at the head of an Iranian delegation. The delegation brings a message from the Iranian president to President Hafiz al-Asad. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' and several Foreign Ministry officials.

CABINET APPROVES ARENS AS DEFENSE MINISTER

TA221736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Report from the Knesset by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live]

[Text] The Cabinet session has now ended. It unanimously approved Prime Minister Menahem Begin's proposal to appoint Israel's U.S. ambassador, Professor Moshe Arens, to the post of defense minister. Tomorrow, Begin will submit the appointment for approval by the Knesset. This was reported after the session by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor:

[Begin recording] At today's special session, the Cabinet decided, following the prime minister's proposal, to add Professor Moshe Arens to the Cabinet as defense minister. The Cabinet will make a statement about this to the Knesset tomorrow.

The Cabinet also decided today, in accordance with the Chief Rabbinate Law, to choose Ministers Yosef Burg and Moshe Nisim as members of the assembly that elects the chief rabbis; and to approve the rabbis appointed by the religious affairs minister to be members of the Electoral Assembly, and also to approve the membership of public figures appointed by this minister in the Electoral Assembly. The Cabinet decided that the Cabinet members and the Knesset members who support the government will vote tomorrow in favor of the draft law regarding the chief rabbinate, and that the rules of party discipline would be in effect on this vote. Thank you. [end recording]

Former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who was unable to attend the session spoke to the prime minister beforehand and asked to register his vote in favor of Arens' appointment. Earlier, Sharon spoke to Arens, congratulating him on his appointment and promising him his full support. Ministers Gid'on Pat and Avraham Sharir, who were absent from the session, also asked to have their votes registered in favor of the appointment.

The other matter discussed at the Cabinet session was lengthening the chief rabbis' terms of office. As stated, coalition discipline will be imposed on the Knesset members in voting for the Cabinet proposal. Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich spoke firmly about this matter, promising that Liberal Party Knesset members would vote for the draft law.

Arens Comments

TA221826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Moshe Arens has made plain that Ari'el Sharon will have no authority whatsoever over IDF commanders. Interviewed on French television, Arens said that the IDF would be subordinate to him and to him only.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR ON PNC RESOLUTIONS

Rejects Resolutions

TA230858 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0855 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The resolutions by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers are resolutions of war and contain no step toward peace, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in reaction to the resolutions published last night. The PLO, the foreign minister commented, will not enter Jerusalem via possible negotiations with Jordan. He also said that the demand that Jews should not settle in Judaea and Samaria was a racist one.

The foreign minister was speaking less than an hour ago at a congress of Jewish veteran soldiers and his remarks were reported by our correspondent (Li'or Freedman).

Further Remarks

TA230909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Shamir has said that there is nothing new in the PLO Council's resolutions in Algiers. Minister Shamir told our correspondent Yaron Enosh that in fact, the Council's resolutions confirm previous resolutions that spoke about destroying Israel in stages. At this Council, they are trying to actualize the first stage of the plan and establish a Palestinian state in the territories. Minister Shamir was speaking at the World Congress of Veteran Soldiers in Jerusalem. He also said that the terrorist organizations were making a bitter mistake by thinking that they could return to Jerusalem under the aegis of King Husayn. That mistake would bring further catastrophes down upon them. Minister Shamir repeated that Israel was prepared to negotiate with the king of Jordan about peace in accordance with the Camp David agreements.

SHAMIR ON CONTACTS WITH EGYPT, LEBANON TALKS

TA221335 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1320 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaw Shamir has confirmed that Israel is now maintaining contacts with Egypt with the aim of improving bilateral relations. However, Shamir said, Jerusalem is concerned over the courting of PLO leaders by Egyptian Government leaders. The foreign minister said: We warned the Egyptians in the past that the PLO is at the bottom of all the wars in our region.

On the convening of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, Shamir said that if this council wants to contribute to peace, it must decide to dismantle itself, but only after it tells the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el that the only road open to them is to cooperate with Israel. Shamir was speaking at the Economic Club in Jerusalem, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Yinon Shenkar.

More on Address

TA221625 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir assesses that negotiations with Lebanon will end soon despite difficulties. As for the question of Tabah, Israel is willing to discuss this dispute with Egypt only in the framework of deliberations on all the bilateral issues on the agenda between Cairo and Jerusalem. Yitzhaq Shamir appeared today in the Economic Club in Jerusalem, and our correspondent Yinon Shenkar listened to his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There are still some obstacles ahead of us, there are still gaps on very vital issues, but we have the feeling that through additional efforts we will succeed in overcoming all the difficulties in the near future and reach an agreement on all the issues.

[Shenkar] Referring to the obstacles precluding the completion of the negotiations with Lebanon, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir emphasized the opposition of the Arab countries to signing a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon. Addressing the issue of Egypt, the foreign minister said there is concern in Israel in the face of many negative phenomena in Egypt on everything pertaining to Israel, and in light of the fact that Egyptian leaders are courting PLO figures, as reflected in statements of support and frequent meetings.

Nevertheless, Yitzhaq Shamir added, we continue to hold contacts and talks with Egypt, including on the issue of the border dispute at Tabah.

[Shamir] We are ready to discuss Tabah, but only in the framework of deliberations about our common issues. Given this state of affairs, it is not fair that we should discuss only issues that interest them while all other subjects -- including those that interest us -- are forsaken.

[Shenkar] The foreign minister also referred to the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in Algiers. Since the PLO decided on the Palestine Charter in Jerusalem in 1964, the organization has not abandoned the idea of returning to Jerusalem, but the State of Israel will not allow this, Yitzhaq Shamir stated.

[Shamir] The State of Israel has declared several times that it is ready to conduct negotiations about peace with the Jordanian king, but only in the framework of Camp David and not in order to bring the PLO back to Jerusalem.

[Shenkar] Replying to a question about the appointment of a new Israeli ambassador in Britain, Foreign Minister Shamir said that the Cabinet has not made up its mind about appointing Ambassador Lankin, but the reactions in Britain aroused sad thoughts. [end recording]

ISRAELI-LEBANESE TALKS RENEW IN NETANYA 22 FEB

TA221115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Israeli-Lebanese talks have been renewed in Netanya. Following the plenary session, two subcommittees, the military and normalization subcommittees, convened. Our correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that at the opening of the plenary session, the head of the Lebanese delegation, Antoine Fattal, declared that Lebanon is convinced that the Syrians will honor their promise and will withdraw from Lebanon. The Israeli representative answered that Israel too wants to withdraw its forces but that an agreement has to be achieved first.

More on Netanya Talks

TA221239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] In Netanya, the talks between Israel and Lebanon have resumed and split up into the military and normalization subcommittees. At the opening of the plenary session, Lebanon's chief delegate, Antoine Fattal, said his country was sure the Syrians would stand by their word and withdraw from Lebanon. Israel's delegate replied that Israel was also interested in withdrawing her forces, but first of all there has to be an agreement.

More, from Vivienne Roystein:

[Begin recording] [Roystein] After lengthy talks between Ambassadors Habib and Draper in Tel Aviv, the tripartitie talks began this morning in Netanya with a short plenary session. In this session, David Kimche expressed Israel's condolences at the loss of Lebanese life due to the snowy blizzards. According to Yosi 'Amihud, Israel's deputy spokesman:

['Amihud] In the (?opening) statement at the plenary session the (?section) head of the Israeli delegation said that there was a lot of frustration and even anger in Israel that there were efforts to give Israel a public image which would show it as the country responsible for obstructing the negotiations, or having them drag on.

[Roystein] Kimche insisted that Israel was ready to conclude the talks in the shortest time possible and withdraw within the framework of an agreement. Fattal responded that press reports should not interfere with the progress of the talks.

With regard to simultaneous Syrian withdrawal, Kimche also expressed Israel's concern. Antoine Fattal responded that Syria had given its world and that there was no reason to suspect that they would not comply.

(Ibrahim Kayin), the Lebanese head of the subcommittee on mutual relations, returned today. This made it possible for this committee and that on security arrangements to meet today. The committee on termination of the state of war split into smaller groups to work on the final drafting of agreements.

The subcommittees are expected to continue this afternoo , and a joint communique is hoped for. Vivienne Roystein, Netanya. [end recording]

Radio Reviews Netanya Talks

TA221813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] At the meeting in Netanya today between Israeli and Lebanese representatives, the Israeli chairman, David Kimche, rejected the claims that were voiced about Israel delaying the achievement of an agreement in Lebanon. U.S. Ambassador Morris Draper answered that such claims are unjustified, and the Lebanese chairman, Antoine Fattal, added that the Lebanese press had not been citing authoritative sources on this matter. On today's contacts in Netanya, our correspondent Roni Daniyel:

[Daniyel -- live or recorded] The 17th meeting between the delegations raised a matter which, though not directly a subject of the meetings between Israel and Lebanon, has at least overshadowed them. When the delegations convened for the plenary session, Israeli Chairman David Kimche said: We have doubts about the Syrians. What will they do? Turning directly to the U.S. team, he continued: What are those who can talk to the Syrians doing about their withdrawal? Morris Draper, who was sitting in the plenary session, said nothing. Lebanese Chairman Antoine Fattal said: The Syrians have promised to withdraw, and I believe that they will do so. Israel, then, expects that in the course of the negotiations between it and Lebanon, the U.S. mediators will test the Syrian's willingness and position on withdrawing from Lebanon.

Further progress was achieved at today's discussions on matters on which progress had already been achieved, and there was a further digging-in on the positions regarding which no progress had been achieved previously. Agreements on the matters of the warning stations, the presence of UNIFIL in the security zone, and the pace of the normalization will not be achieved in the subcommittees, an Israeli source made it clear. The subcommittees, he said, have already exhausted the mandates their governments gave them, and the large gap that remains will require involving senior political elements.

In the military subcommittee, agreement was achieved concerning Major Haddad's forces. These, it was agreed, would be integrated into the Lebanese Army, which will move to the south. However, the fate of Haddad himself has not yet been decided. Agreement was also achieved on defining the security zone, and the demarcation of the line of the maps has already begun.

Both sides also reached agreement on the matter of preventing the entry of foreign forces into their countries, if those same forces do not have full diplomatic relations with both countries. These agreements should be chalked up as achievements.

SHAMIR REACTS TO REAGAN OFFER OF U.S. GUARANTEES

TA221819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel is not asking for U.S. security guarantees in the north and prefers to reach a direct agreement on security arrangements with the Lebanese Government. He was speaking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, following a statement on the Middle East by President Reagan.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We are not asking now for U.S. guarantees. We want to have an agreement between us and Lebanon. Of course, the U.S. participation in these negotiations could be helpful, but we prefer to negotiate a direct agreement with the people and Government of Lebanon.

[Question] What about security measures that would concern Israel? Is Israel still insisting on an Israeli presence for a limited time in Lebanon after the withdrawal?

[Answer] We are now in the middle of the negotiations. There is an agreement about several questions and we have still before us to overcome some additional difficulties and differences of views. The principle of our security arrangements is a close cooperation between us and Lebanon. This cooperation must find its expression on various arrangements inside the security zone of Lebanon.

[Question] Would this include, perhaps, the positioning of multinational forces -- UN, American, European?

[Answer] We don't think that the presence of foreign forces -- multinational or international -- could be helpful. It's not for them to enable us, to be sure, to be assured that the PLO will not come back to the frontier, they [the multinational force] do not fight against them. The only parties who are able to do it, who have the motivation to do it are Lebanon and Israel. Israel, because it has to fight to defend its security; Lebanon, because they are interested to keep their sovereignty, their sovereignty on their territory. And, therefore, the security of this zone must be based on a close cooperation between the Lebanese and Israeli forces. It is in the best interest of Israel and of Lebanon.

Maybe that U.S. guarantees could be helpful but they couldn't replace an agreement between us and Lebanon. [end recording]

EGYPT 'AMAZED' AT DISCLOSURE OF TABAH TALKS

TA221309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] A senior Egyptian source has expressed amazement at the reports published by the Israeli media on the intention to resume this week the talks between Egypt and Israel over Tabah. The source told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that the two countries had pledged not to publish details about this matter before the talks resume.

It was reported this morning that an agreement was reached [huskam] on resuming the talks after Israel had somewhat altered its previous policy when it formerly demanded discussing all the outstanding issues simultaneously.

The two countries' military committees will meet in Ismailia this week to discuss the status of Tabah, and the talks will probably begin in 9 days on thawing the freeze on bilateral trade connections.

MORNING PRESS ON LEBANON, TABAH 23 FEBRUARY

TA230727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] THE JERUSALEM POST writes that there is some point to arguing over whether Israel only went to war in Lebanon to safeguard its northern border or to restabilize Lebanon and its relations with Israel. It is fairly clear that Mr Sharon supported the latter possibility. His objectives were foiled because of the results of the war. He and the government should not pay, as the paper phrases it, the full price for his failure, but that failure does not mean that Israel has to give up all its other objectives, even its smallest security assets. This is certainly a point on which the interests of Israel and the United States in Lebanon meet. These interests have not been advanced by President Reagan's vague comments that his country would be prepared to take all the steps required to safeguard Israel's northern borders after its army withdraws from Lebanon.

DAVAR writes that the former defense minister was the last of the Phalange's supporters in the Israeli Administration. Without Mr Sharon and after the Kahan commission report, the Israeli link with the Phalange has necessarily weakened and both sides have been pushed into a reassessment of the situation. The result is that the president of Lebanon now fears the Phalange less than he did a month ago and is more daring about deciding on how to rule. By so doing, he is enjoying U.S. support and, at the same time, Philip Habib is acquiring an additional card in his current round of talks. In the negotiations that Lebanon is to conduct with Syria and the PLO at the same time as the Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. negotiations, President al-Jumayyil will now be on firmer ground and the United States will be able to demand that Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat begin to bargain seriously. It will now also be easier for Major Haddad, in view of the relative weakening of his antagonists in the Phalange leadership, to agree to an arrangement in which President al-Jumayyil's central rule will be satisfied and the guardians of the southern Lebanon's limited independence will also not come out at loss.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that if the report that the Government of Israel has agreed to Egypt's demand [derisha] to first hold clarifications and negotiations over the Tabah issue is correct, the talks involving normalization of the relations between the two countries may also be resumed. The way to a solution of the Tabah issue is quite simple: Either the parties can reach an arrangement or the dispute will be passed on to an arbitrator for decision. Both parties have inflated the dispute to the point of creating a political crisis. Now there must be work to conclude the affair in ways accepted among neighboring countries that maintain peaceful relations. Even in these gloomy times, we must repeatedly realize that the peace with Egypt is a very precious asset.

AS-SARTAWI SAYS PLO-ISRAELI CONTACTS TO CONTINUE

TA222000 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Interviewed by the weekly HA'OLAM HAZE this evening, Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi said that in spite of his resignation from the Palestine National Council, contacts between the PLO and members of the Isareli peace camp will continue and even expand. This is reported by our correspondent Nisim Mish'al.

HUSAYN 'DEFINITELY DECIDES' TO JOIN PEACE TALKS

TA230639 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has definitely resolved to enter American-sponsored peace negotiations with Israel, Israeli research facilities have concluded on the basis of information received over the past few days.

Sources in Jerusalem reporting this, said last night that Husayn may announce his decision by the end of this week or early next week.

The sources suggested that it was this information, and the conclusions reached, which prompted Prime Minister Menahem Begin to push through the Cabinet approval of his nomination of Prof Moshe Arens to the post of defence minister and to ensure that Arens' predecessor, Ari'el Sharon, remain on the Ministerial Defence Committee and the Lebanese steering committee in view of the diplomatic challenges facing the government.

ARMAMENT AUTHORITY DISCLOSES NEW MISSILE

TA221110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Refa'el [Armaments Development Authority] today disclosed the existence of a new Israeli-made air-to-air missile, called Python-3.

Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that the missile's range is 15 km and it operates on the principle of memorizing the location of the target and tracing a path to it. It can be used against enemy aircraft from all directions, not only from the rear, as required when using the Shafrir missiles.

The new missile has already been put into operation in the war in Lebanon and has downed enemy aircraft.

FRENCH NUCLEAR RESEARCHERS AVOID JOINT VENTURES

TA201449 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Feb 83 p 2

[Report from Paris by Tamar Golan]

[Text] French institutions involved in nuclear research are refraining from cooperating with Israeli bodies seeking to negotiate with them about a nuclear reactor that an Israeli company, owned by Sha'ul Eisenberg, wants to establish in Israel.

Speaking to MA'ARIV, sources in Paris also pointed out that reports in Israel that the French company ("Paramatom") is willing to sell a conventional power station to Eisenberg's company and his U.S. partners is a form of "psychological warfare." The sources said that these reports might mislead the public to believe that France had, as it were, agreed to cooperate with Israel on development plans for a nuclear reactor. "The sale of a power station is no different from the sale of a powerful diesel engine; it cannot be considered nuclear cooperation," a nuclear energy export told MA'ARIV.

The nuclear reactor in question is a fusion reactor involving hydrogen atoms (similar to the principle of the hydrogen bomb) rather than a fission one now used in nuclear power plants. Nuclear energy production is in the development states in a small number of countries throughout the world. Everyone agrees that it will yet take a great many years and huge amounts of capital before the system can be implemented. A scientific commission headed by Professor Yisra'el Sadovsky of the Weizman Institute was set up at one time in France.

This commission ruled that government funds should not be allocated to this project.

However, the "International Fusion Industries" company owned by entrepreneur Sha'ul Eisenberg decided to go ahead with the project. The company is particularly interested in recruiting political support in France and other countries, despite the negative findings of the Sadovsky commission. Company executives, including Al Schwimmer and Ya'aqov Meridor, have been visiting the United States and France every few weeks. It was also reported that senior officials in the Energy Ministry have tried to establish contacts on this issue in Paris and Washington.

A reliable French source claims that the French nuclear establishment is refusing to enter what it calls an "adventure." They are opposed to cooperation not only from the scientific point of view but also because they believe this might endanger the activities of French companies in Third World countries.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that some French circles believe that there can be contacts with the Israelis, but they should be cautious and extremely discreet.

BUILDING COMPANY COMPLETES NIGERIAN PROJECT

TA221541 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 82 p 2

[Report by economic affairs correspondent El'azar Levin]

[Excerpt] The Ashtrum Building Company has recently completed the construction of a 500-villa neighborhood in eastern Nigeria for Soviet experts. The entire project is estimated at $20 million. Ashtrum has been paid in full in spite of the economic crisis in Nigeria which has hindered the payment of debts to other Israeli companies.

The neighborhood, currently being constructed in the town of (Adjakuta), is part of a 6,000-apartment project financed by Nigeria's Steel Development Ministry. It is designed to house thousands of Soviet experts who have arrived in the town to establish a steel consortium. Ashtrum has built relatively small villas of 90 square meters and billed each house for $40,000, about half the cost of a similar villa in Israel. The Nigerian Government decided to complete the project in spite of its financial distress because it is essential in order to operate the consortium. Ashtrum participated in an international tender, in the wake of which the project was distributed among 10 companies of various countries.

BRIEFS

NORTHERN WATER RESERVES -- The water level in Lake Tiberias is the lowest in 20 years this year, according to the director general of the Meqorot Water Company, and stands at minus 211.06 meters despite the heavy rains. He explained that the rain filled the underground water reservoirs which were emptied by last year's drought. Most of the water was absorbed and did not flow into the lake so that the water level there has risen only by 60 cm since the beginning of the winter. As a result, a water shortage is expected in the northern Golan area this summer. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Feb 83 p 1 TA]

LIBYA

FURTHER ON AL-QADHDHAFI 17 FEB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SPEECH

LD171906 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at meeting of General People's Congress in Tripoli -- live]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] Although the USSR is our friend, we would not allow its fleet to enter the Gulf of Sidra before it makes a request to enter and asks for permission for a visit or for a unit to enter our waters, or exactly as Yugoslavia, Italy, Turkey, or any other country would seek permission and exactly as we would ask permission from them at some time or another, saying that we have a submarine or a warship wanting to pass through the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, or the Aegean Sea.

Although the Russians are our friends, their fleet cannot go beyond latitude 32, either in the air or by sea.

What I am trying to say is that we are forced to defend ourselves and to mobilize men and women for fighting. This is something which is inarguable.

But we forget things. We have forgotten the massacres at Dayr Yasin [1948, Palestine] and Bahr al-Baqar [in Egypt]. We will soon forget the massacres at Sabra and Shatila, and we will forget Beirut and Tyre and Sidon, as we have forgotten 'Akko and Yafo before.

Tomorrow they will occupy us with another matter: they will say that they want Al-Madinah [in Saudi Arabia] as our capital. We would forget then about Jerusalem. They made Jerusalem their capital against our wishes.

We have protested and protested. But tomorrow they will make us forget, despite ourselves. They will distract us with another place. They will occupy Al-Madinah and say this is the capital for the Jews.

This is the train of death which you have to confront with women and men. I am sorry indeed that such a decision has to be taken under such conditions. I wish the conditions were at least normal. But in the present conditions, we are hearing the sound of the train of death. They are ruthless and barbaric people who have no hearts.

They are permanent members of the UN Security Council. They have the right of veto. They are there specifically to curb force such as that used by the Israeli forces when they entered Lebanon. These too sat on the fence watching and laughing. They said that this problem concerned the Arabs, and let them go to hell. I got angry with the USSR and the socialist countries. I summoned their ambassadors and told them that their friendship was in danger and that this showed no friendship: We are burning in front of you. This is enough. What did we want these countries to say? Let them at least tell the Security Council -- this would do. Thereupon Brezhnev sent me a message. He said: My friend al-Qadhdhafi. If you give food to someone, he must at least open his mouth so that you can put the food in it. And once the morsel is in his mouth, he must chew it so that he can swallow it. But we cannot open your mouths and put the morsel in it and chew it for you. We have given you arms. As for friendship, this is friendship. But we cannot liberate Beirut for you, liberate any of your positions for you, or liberate Palestine for you. This is a matter for the Arabs. I mean they gloat, even your friends! The USSR is a friend and even an ally of the Arabs by virture of the basic contradiction between it and the United States, which sides with the Israelis. Thus it is natural that the USSR should be with the Arabs. This is in addition to other common objectives such as the fight against imperialism, the search for peace and democracy, and so on. Socialism ties us to the USSR and to the socialist bloc.

Their attitude is good. There are no better stands than those of the USSR and the socialist bloc toward the Arabs at the present time -- toward Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Algeria. [applause]

When America declared a blockade against us and stopped buying our oil, the USSR asked us for payment, but we had nothing but oil. The USSR said, well, we will take the oil, since you have nothing but oil. [words indistinct]

What I want to say is that, despite the friendship of the USSR and the socialist bloc and the fact that they are the closest countries to the Arabs now in the world, they cannot defend you or fight for you in your country. That is your own responsibility. If you say it is not our responsibility or say we are not trained, you will see what will happen.

The matter of foreign congresses deserves a pause. It deserves evaluation. It deserves saluting, when people's congresses are set up beyond the seas and oceans -- from Latin America, to Australia, to Europe. Their resolutions must be incorporated in your draft. The agenda must also be circulated among them. The agenda is not something that is secret. Even if it were secret, they are Arab people's congresses, after all. Each year's agenda must be circulated among them.

Arab people's congresses must continue to be formed both inside and outside the Arab world, openly or secretly. This could be the way to pull the carpet from under the feet of the regional regimes which refuse to eliminate borders and bring about Arab unity. Ideally, we will one day see the Arab people form a general congress for the Arab people and see the Arab people divided into people's congresses, which could be operating secretly and, at some time, impose their will and force the governments to [word indistinct] for themselves.

Hence, we should continue to instigate the formation of people's congresses. This is a task for all Libyans and for all of the Arabs forming people's congresses abroad: to form people's congresses everywhere, both openly and secretly, both inside and outside the Arab homeland. This is also the task of the Libyan and Arab revolutionary committees, in the Arab homeland, both the open ones and the secret ones. Every people's congress must incorporate a revolutionary committee to instigate it to exercise authority. Thus the Arab people's congresses abroad must have revolutionary forces emerging from within them to form a revolutionary committee that will perform the tasks which the revolutionary committees perform inside Libya.

We must tighten our belts so that we are not affected by the economic crisis and do not fall like others who have fallen. As I have told you before, some countries have been crushed and harmed. All the countries in the world have embarked on economic measures to deal with the crisis: laying off workers, reducing wages and budgets, increasing taxes, increasing customs duties, and increasing prices of commodities.

We have so far escaped the economic crisis through which the world is passing. We are among the countries least affected by the world economic crisis. We must continue to remain so. [applause]

There is yet another point in addition to the economic one, concerning political and moral aspects. The United States has plotted against us with coups and direct military threats, hoping they would bring about some effect inside Libya. As you might have heard last year, I am not sure whether it was 1982 or 1981, besides the personal filthy plots, [words indistinct] they assassinated. What we are familiar with from the CIA, that is the program of [word indistinct] the American intelligence committee. They were discussing the budget. They decided they could get rid of these people with that method.

They thought that by doing something to one person they could put an end to the revolution or cause it to relapse. They said that when 'Abd an-Nasir died, Egypt retreated. [passage indistinct] Thus they said that issues depend on personalities, so if they subdue certain personalities -- that is, occupy the Arab homeland, or some area, or the petroleum [sentence as heard] They have failed in all their attempts against us.

[passage indistinct] All this is black propaganda. The idea is to incite the world against someone as was the case with Hitler. They accused Libya of being the country of crime, terrorism, and distribution of arms and [words indistinct] all these have in fact failed.

Austria's Kreisky has told them that all of this talk about Libya -- we have read in history what was said against the French Revolution when it was staged -- you considered it an act of terrorism and subversion. But then you saw how the French Revolution became a turning point in the history of mankind. He said that what is happening in Libya was also a new turning point in the history of mankind, a new culture, a revolution, a cultural revolution. [applause]

They asked him why he welcomed Al-Qadhdhafi in Austria. He showed me the cables and protests he received from individuals and groups in addition to the official pressures from America and the Israeli Government. He told them: This is a black propaganda you are waging against him. It is propaganda by prejudiced people and has the stamp of Israel. This is similar to the propaganda campaigns waged by emperors and kings against the French Revolution.

This matter needs to be understood. They have failed in their black propaganda against us. During the days of As-Sadat, they thought he could capture Libya and that nobody would protest on the pretext that Libya was a country of terrorism. America also throught that if its fleets were to come close to Libya, the Libyans would get frightened and [words indistinct] but they have failed [words indistinct] they no longer have any hope. The regime is a people's regime [words indistinct] the Libyan people are free.

We must politically and morally endure so that we prove to them that such tactics do not work with us. We refuse to submit or yield. Either we are convinced and thereby accept, or we should be prepared to endure even death before submitting. Let America and those with it understand that all these things will be of no avail [words indistinct] so that they may respect us and say: We realize that you are certainly a free people [your own] masters who are prepared to die or to live only on bread and water, but who will deal with you differently. You say what you want and we say what we want, and then we try to reach agreement between the two wishes.

We do not reject this and the door for this is not closed.
this door for this is not closed. However they can enter this door only when they become convinced that we are a people who would not [word indistinct] ourselves for the sake of chocolate, or out of fear of losing salaries, or cars [words indistinct] and even whether or not we had rice. To hell with tea and coffee. Even if we eat wood and leather. We are people who refuse to bargain over our dignity. This is impossible. We must prove this to them. It is not enough to urge you to do so. We must prove this to them. [applause]

We must take the necessary measures so that we do not submit. The Americans and the others must ultimately feel certain that they have to change their policy toward Libya, that they must respect it and deal with it in the manner it wants and not in the manner they want.

This is what I want to say. The struggle continues. March forward.

HIJACKED PLANE REMAINS AT MALTA AIRPORT

LD231001 Tripoli JANA in English 0707 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 11, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Libyan Arab Airlines passenger plane hijacked on an internal flight last Sunday is still at Luca airport. Libyan Arab-Airline sources said that negotiations are in progress between the hijackers and the airport's control tower with the presence of the Maltese prime minister. The Maltese authorities today refused to refuel the plane.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES INTEGRATION COUNCIL SESSION

NC221541 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (MENA) -- The Supreme Council for Integration between Egypt and Sudan began its meetings in Khartoum this morning under the chairmanship of Presidents Muhammad Musni Mubarak and Ja'far Muhammad Numayri with the members of both the Egyptian and Sudanese sides attending.

In a speech he delivered during the session, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri said that Sudan has never experienced a meeting as sincere as today's. He added: Our hands -- we, the sons of the Nile valley -- have remained clasped since the dawn of history. Early mankind's civilization, unique achievements, and battles for life and victories started here. President Numayri added: The Nile valley has experienced historical struggles among peoples. The people of Egypt have shared the Sudanese people's struggles and glories. The Sudanese people have been the Egyptian people's twin in all these heroic battles.

President Numayri said in his speech: Since the inception of the 23 July revolution, relations between the two fraternal peoples in Egypt and Sudan have been traversing new horizons and becoming more special and have been strengthened by the 25 May revolution -- the twin of the immortal July revolution. The two peoples have continued their confident march, struggling jointly, especially during the battles of the 1956 and 1967 aggressions. They also witnessed together the signs of the October 1973 victories.

President Numayri said: The people of the Nile valley have been anxious to see a responsible action for unity beneficial to them. We have had the honor of marching on this path in deference to the will of the people of the great Nile valley. In February 1974 in Alexandria, I signed the program for political action with the late President Brother as-Sadat, and we made great and glorious strides. Now, this program has been completed in the context of a progressive document for action between our two peoples, namely, the Integration Charter.

President Numayri added: Today I declare again that I place my hand in your hand [presumably President Mubarak's hand], in the name of the people of Sudan and by their free will, so that we may complete a great historical march, in fulfillment of the masses' aspirations and in loyalty to the souls of the martyrs who have fallen while defending the honor and cause of the Nile valley. I place my hand in yours and Sudan's hand in the hand of Egypt for political and economic progress and social justice for the great people of the Nile valley. I place my hand in yours as we set up this Arab-African base for the liberation of the occupied territories, the repulsion of every aggression, the support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state like all the peoples of the world, the liberation of the African Continent from colonialist oppression, and the sake of peace and prosperity for us and the whole world.

I place my hand in yours for the establishment of a united entity that completes the steps of our nation and continent.

President Numayri went on to say: In this endeavor we emphasize that we will not allow anyone to tamper with our territory, come close to our borders, or interfere in our affairs, because this lofty edifice of ours does not represent an axis or a bloc against anyone. He added: This wise action for unity can realize the aspirations of the people of Egypt and Sudan for development and prosperity. Peace be upon you. When the Supreme Council for Integration wound up its 4-hour session, Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri held a closed meeting.

NUMAYRI, MUBARAK HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

NC221736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (MENA) -- Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has announced that during today's meeting of the Supreme Council for Integration between Egypt and Sudan, all the regulations, bases, laws, and bylaws of the integration institutions -- the Supreme Council for Integration, the General Secretariat for Integration, the Integration Fund, and the Nile Valley Parliament -- were approved.

At a press conference he held with President Ja'far Numayri in Khartoum this evening, President Husni Mubarak announced that consultations and efforts are now underway to convene an African summit conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the headquarters of the OAU.

At the beginning of the press conference President Numayri answered a question on the achievements accomplished at today's meeting of the Supreme Council for Integration: This is a historical day because it marks the start of real work for integration between Egypt and Sudan. During today's meeting, the Council for Integration approved all the regulations, bases, laws, and bylaws of the integration institutions, namely the Supreme Council for Integration, the General Secretariat for Integration, the Integration Fund, and the Nile Valley Parliament.

President Numayri added: After we approved these bases, we moved to approving some programs which can be carried out between now and June. We also approved some old projects which are still being implemented. President Numayri said that measures, which will enable the citizens in both Egypt and Sudan to move and deal easily, were also approved, particularly in matters of economy, citizenship, residence, and movement. We supported and indeed pushed all these things forward so that the citizens of the two countries can feel that they are in one country.

His excellency added: We also agreed on the bodies that serve the council. These bodies are five committees that will study the various subjects: the production and services committees and three other committees. These committees will present their studies to the council, which will approve them and submit them to the Nile Valley Parliament which will then adopt decisions on them. These decisions are then to be sent to the assemblies of the two governments to formulate them into laws or amend the various laws.

He went on to say: Another important thing that we achieved today was the Integration Fund program. We approved the statutes that were presented by the Integration Fund secretary. They are good statutes that serve the purpose for which the fund has been established and through which many establishments in friendly states, the Arab world, or the world as a whole can contribute.

He said: We gave the green light to the secretary general and the fund secretary to start immediately to establish their institutions so that they will be able to embark on the great surge that will not stop until we achieve prosperity for both the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

President Husni Mubarak, in reply to a question on the possibility of convening an African meeting during the Nonaligned Summit Conference, said: An African summit conference must be held in an African state and on African soil. After the failure of the two previous meetings, consultations and efforts are now underway for convening an African summit conference in Addis Ababa, the seat of the OAU. The Nonaligned summit confernce, which will embrace many heads of states from our dear continent, could provide an opportunity for more consultations on convening an African summit in the state that is the seat of the OAU.

Replying to a question on whether the two presidents in their talks today dealt with the situation on the Sudanese border and the assessment they might have reached in this respect, President Numayri said: Our discussions did not deal with the situation on the Sudanese-Egyptian-Libyan borders, but we did broach what the information media have been reiterating in this respect.

President Numayri expressed his conviction that the various information media avoided the facts in much of what [Janabat al-haqa'iq fi kathir mimma] they said about what is happening here in Sudan and on the borders.

President Numayri replied to another question on the current situation between Libya and Sudan by saying: The threat from Libya against Sudan is continuing. I believe that it will not stop for a long time because, for 3 years now, the Libyans have been really ready to attack the Sudanese Government and its president. Al-Qadhdhafi has clearly said that he wants to change this government and to do away with Numayri by any means, even if he has to kill him. He is working toward this end. What I want to say is that we are aware of his whole plan.

President Numayri said: Some 4 or 5 weeks ago I received information from inside Libya, from people we trust, that Al-Qadhdhafi was sending a shipload of arms to his agents in Sudan and that this ship would arrive in Port Sudan on a certain day. We waited for this ship, and we were very surprised when we discovered that it was loaded with arms. We seized these arms.

The Sudanese president indicated that Al-Qadhdhafi now believes that the arms are in the hands of his agents, what he calls revolutionary commissions. He added that these arms are now in the hands of the Sudanese Government and that if Al-Qadhdhafi tries to do it again, we will handle it and make sure that he can do nothing against Sudan. President Numayri said: Based on what is taking place in Al-Kafrah, it is obvious that Al-Qadhdhafi wants-to do something against Sudan, because he deployed weapons, particularly aircraft, in addition to other military units.

President Numayri indicated that Al-Qadhdhafi himself openly declared that he was intending to attack Sudan on 18 February and was preparing for it, but that we were prepared for it.

The Sudanese president denied what has been recently repeated about a coup d'etat in Sudan. He said: I affirm that there was no coup d'etat. We learned that it would happen in the future and we put a stop to it.

President Numayri said that Al-Qadhdhafi told one of his agents that on the morning [of 18 February] he would send a TU aircraft to bomb Khartoum, as if he were thinking that Sudan had no resistance, aircraft, or forces. Afterward, he tried to preoccupy world public opinion with anticipated moves against himself and submitted a complaint to the Security Council. By so doing, he was applying the proverb we use, "He hits me and hastens to complain."

President Numayri declared that yesterday the Sudanese Government laid its hands on a telex message which Al-Qadhdhafi sent to his associates ordering them to postpone the operation for 1 or 2 months in order to end his problems with the Americans and the Egyptians.

President Numayri said: We do not know what he will do to us. We have learned that he maintained that some ships were threatening the shores of Libya and began threatening us.

The Sudanese president said that Al-Qadhdhafi's associates have been put in detention. He added: I did not want to announce this so he would continue what he is planning and continue sending telegrams to them. We benefitted from the cables to learn what he is planning against us.

President Husni Mubarak then answered a question from the American CBS network on the implications of the recent developments and the presence of AWACS aircraft in Egypt. He said: We have become accustomed to the presence of the AWACS for training purposes. This is not the first time.

Mubarak pointed out that the AWACS is not a fighter aircraft but an early warning aircraft. He said: We have a joint defense treaty with Sudan. When we received the reports about threats to Sudan, it was necessary for us to defend ourselves and implement the joint defense agreement. Two planes violated our airspace in the Al-Kafrah area. We sent our planes to intercept them. We contacted the Libyan Government by telephone and kindly told them that we do not want such actions, asked them not to repeat them, and told them that we do not want a violation of our airspace.

President Mubarak said: The AWACS aircraft are still in Cairo. This is all that happened. There were raido rumors after this. I have heard them, and you, too, have heard them. I had no knowledge of them. These rumors said that I asked the U.S. 6th Fleet to move against the Libyan shores. The fact is that I did not ask this and it is not my object to move one state against another.

President Mubarak added: I believe that President Numayri has explained to you everything that happened. Following Sudan's discovery of the attempt against it, I do not believe that this attempt will be repeated.

At the conclusion of the press conference, President Husni Mubarak answered a question on current developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian question. He said: Discussions are currently taking place between the Israelis and the Lebanese regarding the process of the withdrawal of Israeli and the other foreign forces from Lebanon. In the meantime, the PNC is meeting to decide what policy it will follow and decide on the relations between the Palestinian brothers and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Such a relationship would facilitate the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This might give the United States an opportunity to push the discussions on the Palestinian question forward.

President Mubarak went on: Yesterday I addressed an appeal to the Arab brothrs meeting in Algiers to resort to reason and logic during their discussion of the question because no non-Palestinian Arab can assume the responsibility for the Palestinian question in any way. No Arab official can make such a decision. Therefore, I have often appealed to them to live the reality, rise up to the level of the responsibilities and reach a decision on the relationship between them and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan in order to pave the way for a better atmosphere for starting the negotiations on resolving the Palestinian question.

President Mubarak added: I would like to say that time is passing and that it is not in our interests. We must exploit this precious opportunity as soon as possible to avoid losing the cause.

SUPREME COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATION ISSUES STATEMENT

NC222245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) -- A statement was issued today in both Cairo and Khartoum by the Supreme Council for Integration between Egypt and Sudan. The text of the statement reads as follows:

With God's help and protection, the Supreme Council for Integration convened its first session in Khartoum on 7 Jumada al-Ula 1403 Hegira, corresponding to 22 February 1983, under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and President Ja'far Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

With the spirit of the eternal fraternity between the two peoples of the Nile valley, out of loyalty to their joint struggle and with a profound sense of historical responsibility, the Council dealt with the issues contained in the Integration Charter, which was signed by the two presidents in the name of their two peoples on 12 October 1982.

In the forefront of the matters which the council studied was the laying of the fundamental rules for joint action in all domains and the setting up of the bodies and institutions stipulated in the charter, so as to confirm the principle of work through these institutions and to establish the structures, statutes, and administrative regulations that govern the work -- the definition of the jurisdictions, the selection of the methods, channels, and phases of implementation in a clear and realistic manner, and the method that is based on the correct course of action so as to embark on a confident surge toward the goals and objectives.

The Council affirmed that this meeting falls within the principles and noble objectives which were manifested in the charter and under the protection of the two peoples of the Nile valley. It also takes place under the canopy of their overwhelming will and sincere desire to strengthen and develop relations and the cultural fundamentals and the new facts which emerged and interacted to bind the two peoples with a strong unbreakable bone -- a common fate -- so that they will continue their great contribution to building life and achieving progress for the people on the land of the Nile valley.

This meeting also reaffirms that the people of Egypt and Sudan, by establishing this integration, aspire for a new phase characterized by serious work and persistent endeavor to create a new and glorious life on the land of the Nile Valley through wise unionist work by mobilizing the capabilities and directing them toward a bright future, God willing.

On the basis of this, this meetinq comes as a base for Arab solidarity in its endeavor for an Arab awakening that is capable of warding off aggression, repelling invasion, liberating the land, and regaining the right as well as a base for African awakening that will fight colonialism and racial discrimination and raise the banners of nonalignment as well as the banners of Islamic solidarity and international cooperation.

The meeting is equipped with the past integration experiences, clear-sightedness, and awareness of the greatness of the responsibility. Therefore, it should be a launching point that can carry planning and implementation from the sphere of hopes into the arena of methodology and application. The whole issue should be in the hands of the two peoples and the charter should be a popular deposit that sincerely and honestly reflects the hopes and aspirations of the two brotherly peoples for the cancellation of barriers and the removal of obstacles that hinder the spontaneous movement of the natural flow of all means of integration and unity over the whole Nile valley.

In adherence with the two people's struggle and the martyrs of that struggle, in response to the provisions of the Integration Charter, in consolidation of the bases for a responsible and constructive joint action in all domains, and in the interest of laying down the organizational infrastructures and the applied bases pertaining to organizing this action to be a translation of the charter's provisions into a tangible reality that will ensure the welfare and prosperity of the peoples of the Nile valley, the Council decided the following:

1. Authorize the establishment of the integration institutions and organs and their powers, statutes, and structures in the manner stipulated in the organizational resolutions pertaining to these organs and institutions, foremost of which are the Secretariat General, the Integration Fund, and the standing technical committees.

2. The Council discussed the restrictions impeding the freedom of trade between the two countries. It adopted important and specific decisions aimed at removing the restrictions and obstacles to achieve the aims of the economic integration in expanding the base of the trade volume between the two fraternal countries to the maximum possible limit. The decisions include new payment arrangements and cancel customs and other fees on most commodities exchanged between the two countries.

The Council issued other decisions regarding free trade in other commodities in accordance with new and specific arrangements. The decisions free the trade exchange. They will come into effect at the end of March.

The Council expressed interest in Sudan's export of camels to Egypt. It agreed in this regard that payments should be made in accordance with the existing agreements. The Council further approved the bolstering and development of the border trade between the two countries. The ministers concerned will follow up implementation of this.

The Council discussed the freedom of movement, ownership, employment, and residence. It decided that the technical committee for constitutional and legislative affairs will make a quick review of the laws and decisions pertaining to this subject and complete its work before the middle of April, preparatory to submitting its recommendations to the Supreme Council and the legislative organs in both countries.

3. The Supreme Council for Integration considered the studies and documents presented to it regarding the economic, social, and political programs in light of the past joint action experiences.

A general framework has been drawn up defining the stages of implementation in the next 10 years. It will serve as a guideline to the technical committees in their future studies and recommendations, which they will submit to the Supreme Council for Integration.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS LIBYA'S THREATS

EA221622 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The People's Assembly has hailed and unanimously approved the draft resolution presented by Muhammad Kamal Hamadtu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, following the statement presented by Major General Ba Bakr Abd ar-Rahim, chairman of the Security and National Defense Committee, to the assembly this morning concerning the Libyan troops massed on the Sudanese-Libyan border.

The draft resolution says: The assembly hails the vigilance and efficiency of the security organs, the courage and daring of the People's Armed Forces in confronting the continuous adventures of Libya's colonel against Sudan and his threats to invade it, his provocations against its people and leadership, and his bids to undermine its security and stability.

It appeals to all the sons of the noble and militant Sudanese people to be even more alert and vigilant in confronting the adventures and exposing their dimensions aimed at harming our people and homeland.

It confirms the responsibility of the executive authority for safeguarding the internal front in face of all attempts by the agents to abort the gains of our people and homeland which were achieved with great efforts, sweat, struggle, and the blood of our martyrs.

The assembly calls again for the matter to be reported to the OAU, the Arab League, and the United Nations in order to eliminate these threats and provocations and the consequences of this hostile Libyan action against Sudan, and in order to combat naked violation of the charters and resolutions of those organizations which confirm the regional sovereignty and territorial integrity of all their members.

JOINT STATEMENT WITH CHAD ISSUED 18 FEB

LD181919 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 83

["Text" of "Joint statement" on the visit of Chadian President Hissein Habre to Sudan 16-18 February, issued 18 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At the invitation of President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, President Hissein Habre, president of the republic, head of state, and prime minister of the republic of Chad, paid a working and friendly visit to the Democratic Republic of Sudan 16-18 February 1983. The Chadian leader's visit to Sudan is an expression of the spirit of eternal brotherhood and friendship which characterizes relations between the two fraternal peoples. It was also a good opportunity for strengthening these relations.

The two leaders held comprehensive and constructive talks about upgrading and strengthening the historical ties and bonds of fraternal and good-neighborly relations between the two fraternal countries. They also discussed international and regional qustions and issues of mutual interest. The viewpoints of both sides were identical in this regard.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding which reflects the bonds of fraternity, cooperation, and good-neighborliness between the two fraternal peoples.

President Hissein Habre briefed President Ja'far Numayri on the situation in Chad and related matters on the regional and international levels. President Ja'far Numayri expressed his full satisfaction with the stability of the situation increasing security and order and legitimacy in Chad. He also expressed his extreme pleasure with the advanced steps which have been accomplished on the road toward national accord, achieving national unity and territorial sovereignty in Chad. In this regard the two presidents appealed to the international community and to friendly countries to extend economic and financial assistance for the purpose of reconstruction in Chad, and to hasten the fulfillment of commitments which they undertook during the international conference on aid to Chad which was convened under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva in November 1982.

In reviewing the development of bilateral relations, the presidents of the two countries expressed their satisfaction with the development achieved so far and affirmed their determination to widen and deepen these relations and to upgrade the fields of cooperation and consultation in all questions of mutual interest and benefit. In this regard the two leaders agreed to (?activate) a joint ministerial committee to achieve this aim.

Touching on the situation in Africa, the two leaders denounced all subversive attempts aiming at destroying the unity and cohesion of the OAU. They also stressed the urgent need to safeguard the organization through full adherence to its charter and its principles, particularly with regard to noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and other countries' sovereignty over their territorial integrity within their inherited bounderies, and solving disputes by peaceful means.

The two leaders also affirmed the need to return the organization to legitimacy, considering that the African organization is a forum for the conciliation of viewpoints in the service of the common great objectives proclaimed by the OAU charter.

The presidents of the two countries have agreed that President Hissein Habre's visit to the Democratic Republic of Sudan will provide a new impetus for strengthening and consolidating closer relations between the two fraternal countries.

President Hissein Habre and his accompanying delegation expressed their high appreciation and gratitude to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and to the people and government of the Democratic Republic of Sudan for the warm welcome and great reception accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during their stay in Sudan.

President Hissein Habre extended an invitation to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to visit Chad. His excellency accepted the invitation with thanks and appreciation. The date is to be set later.

ETHIOPIA

TPLF: 117 DERGUE SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN CLASHES

EA221838 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The heroic fighters of the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] have attacked an enemy force advancing in the areas of (Tsaeda Midri) and Abbi (Igri) and forced it to retreat. In fierce fighting in the areas of (Tsaeda Midri) on 16 February and Abbi (Igri) on 17 and 18 February the heroic fighters of the TPLF killed and wounded a total of 117 Dergue soldiers and captured two soldiers, four Kalashinkovs, and a number of other weapons.

KENYA

PRESIDENT RELEASES EX-SERVICEMEN, STUDENTS

EA221300 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has extended presidential clemency to 412 exservicemen of the disbanded Kenya Air Force and 61 students of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College.

A statement issued from State House, Nairobi, said that the students and exservicemen in question are those whose cases are pending in the courts. President Moi said action has already been taken regarding their release and instructions issued that they proceed directly to their homes. He said those who have received presidential clemency are expected to live among their parents and local communities, who are requested to help them readjust and live as peaceful and useful citizens of this country.

The president said that they are lucky to receive the pardon but warned that failure to be of good conduct and behavior they would be treated with the seriousness it deserves. He said that the students and exservicemen who were arraigned following the 1 August disturbances have had their cases dealt with on merit and that because he knew some people may have been misled by a few misguided and deranged criminals he had given them the benefit of the presidential clemency. The president said that they be released immediately and expressed the hope that the short period of detention should serve as a warning not only to themselves but also to all other persons who would be tempted to take the law in their hands.

SOMALIA

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

EA221608 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Challe Muhammad Ibrahim Ahmad received U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Robert B. Oakley in his office this morning. The speaker and the ambassador discussed on the friendly relations and cooperation based on mutual respect and understanding between the (?two countries). The speaker briefed the ambassador on Abyssinian aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic, and said that a superpower with a special interest in the region was behind the aggression. He declared that the problem in the Horn of Africa is the direct result of Abyssinian colonialism and the struggle by the colonized people to shake off the yoke of colonialism.

Challe Muhammad Ibrahim Ahmad said the Somali Government is not seeking any territory from Abyssinia, but it is interested in achieving the independence of the people that country has colonized. The speaker also explained to the ambassador the working structure of the National Assembly and how members are elected.

UGANDA

OBTE SAYS RWANDAN REFUGEES TO BE MOVED

AB211853 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Kampala, Feb. 21 (AFP) -- An estimated 30,000 refugees of Rwandan origin will be moved from over-crowded camps to less populated parts of the east African country, Ugandan President Milton Obote said here today. But the Ugandan president told a press conference that the move was only a temporary measure until his government could arrange for all the Rwandan-speaking refugees to leave Uganda. "All those who came from Rwanda are aliens, together with their offspring," Dr. Obote said.

Last September people of Rwandan origin began flocking across the border after being ordered by the Ugandan authorities to move into the refugee camps or leave the country. Some 50,000 left for Rwanda before the border was closed by a bilateral agreement, and 30,000 others went into the camps. The Rwandan authorities maintained that most of the refugees flooding into Rwanda were Ugandan as they were born in Uganda.

Dr. Obote, who said the exercise would involve the movement of 70,000 domestic animals in addition to the 30,000 people, did not indicate when the operation would start, but stressed that government officials were already working on the plan. The Ugandan president said that he would not prevent Ugandan citizens from returning home, but that to be Ugandan it was necessary to both have been born in Uganda and to have lived in the British protectorate prior to independence in 1962, or to be descended from persons fulfilling these conditions.

"These are refugees, and their offspring will remain refugees," he said, adding that some had used the disorder under dictator Idi Amin's regime to move out of the refugee camps. Dr. Obote maintained that the Rwandan-speaking refugees had "displaced" the indigenuous people in southwestern Uganda after winning the approval of the Amin regime to leave the camps and had even moved into the homes of some native Ugandan residents. He said last year's evictions had not been government policy but were "a result of built-up resentment among the local people."

Dr. Obote also announced that he had proposed a meeting between Ugandan and Rwandan officials to discuss the nationality question in the border town of Kabale on March 5, to be chaired by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE MESSAGE TO STEVENS ON DISPUTE

AB222230 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[President Ahmed Sekou Toure's message to Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens issued in Conakry on 22 February]

[Text] Excellency, Dear Brother, we have learned with consternation and amazement of the sudden deterioration in the relations of friendship, brotherhood, and good neighborliness which have always existed between Liberia and Sierra Leone. A situation of tension likely to jeopardize the traditional relations existing between the brotherly peoples of Liberia and Sierra Leone has reportedly cropped up between the two countries. If such tension should persist, it could dangerously affect the serene atmosphere of friendly cooperation between your two brotherly countries within the Mano River Union. In view of the great trust and hope entertained by our people, I appeal to you to leave no stone unturned to ensure that calm and oeace be fully restored at the border so that the relations of good neighborliness will be safeguarded.

On Wednesday, 23 February, we will make a visit (?to) [word indistinct] and we will later be honored to get in touch with Your Excellency on our return. But in the meantime, our prime minister, Dr Lansana Beavogui, will be sent to you to express our great concern and the proof of our total, perfect solidarity within the Mano River Union. Rest assured, Your Excellency, of our highest brotherly regards.

[Signed] Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea

To Doe on Dispute

AB222255 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[President Sekou Toure's message to Liberian Head of State Samuel Kanyon Doe on 22 February]

[Text] Excellency, Dear Brother, we have learned with consternation and great surprise of the sudden deterioration in the relations of friendship, brotherhood, and good neighborliness which have always existed between Liberia and Sierra Leone. A situation of tension likely to jeopardize the traditional relations between the brotherly peoples of Liberia and Sierra Leone is said to have cropped up between the two countries. If such tension were persistent, it could dangerously jeopardize the serene atmosphere of friendly cooperation between your two brotherly states within the Mano River Union. In view of all the trust and hopes entertained by our people, I appeal to you to leave no stone unturned to ensure that calm and peace be restored at your border so that your relations of good neighborliness will be safeguarded.

On Wednesday, 23 February, I am going on an official visit to Zaire. On my return, I will be honored to get in touch with Your Excellency. But in the meantime, my prime minister, Dr Lansana Beavogui, will be sent to you to convey my great concern and the proof of my total, perfect solidarity within the Mano River Union. Rest assured, Excellency and Dear Brother, of my brotherly, highest regards.

[Signed] Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea

LIBERIA

MONROVIA: DOE UNSATISFIED WITH STEVENS MESSAGE

AB222116 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leon has issued his first reaction to the Government of Liberia's position against an article appearing in a Freetown newspaper. Replying to the telegram from the Liberia leader, President Stevens told Dr Doe that he was equally astonished at this very grave allegation made by an independent newspaper in his country. But the Liberian leader charged that in addition in waiting too late to deal with such a delicate situation affecting the character of another leader, his government is not satisfied with the reaction of the president. President Stevens said he recognized that the tradition of freedom of expression in his nation's constitution has been abused from time to time as evidenced by that publication. Accordingly, he noted that his government and himself shared Dr Doe's feelings and the feelings of the Liberian people over the publication.

President Stevens urged the Liberian leader to reconsider resuming normal intercourse in keeping with the tradition of good neighborliness and brotherhood between our two peoples. An Executive Mansion release today said, however, that the explanation given by the president was not sufficient to restore relations between the two countries to a state of normalcy. Commenting on President Stevens' reference to good neighborliness and brotherhood, the Liberian leader said the article in itself was far from a demonstration of the characteristics the president is advocating. Dr Doe said his government has not changed its position of demanding a more satisfactory response from Sierra Leone considering the gravity of the allegation levelled against him. He said that until his government and people are convinced that the Sierra Leone Government sincerely regrets the event, the borders will remain closed.

STEVENS CONFERENCE, MRS DOE ACTIVITIES REPORTED

AB221910 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone today summoned all newspaper editors in the country to State House in Freetown. He is expected to make a statement tonight. This came in the wake of the Liberian Government's reaction to a misleading article published in Freetown about the Liberian leader. Liberia's ambassador to Sierra Leone, Dr Joseph Morris, who was also recalled home for consultation, has not yet returned. Foreign Ministry sources said efforts were continuing to contact Dr Morris. Freetown is reported to be facing serious power shortages which are affecting communications.

Meanwhile, First Lady Mrs Nancy Doe left here today at the head of a high-power delegation for Maryland County. According to the Liberian news agency, she was seen off at Springs Payne Airfiled by deputy minister of state for presidential affairs, John B. Rancy. The first lady, who will be in Maryland for 10 days, will inspect ongoing development projects.

At the same time, some airlines told Liberian Broadcasting Service News that their flights in and out of Freetown will be affected if the border closure continues. Hundreds of local passengers bound for Freetown had to cancel their trip today following the border closure.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS ADDRESSES PRESS CONFERENCE 22 FEB

AB222102 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The president, Dr Siaka Stevens, today addressed members of the Sierra Leone press at State House over the decision of Liberia's head of state Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe to close the Sierra Leone-Liberia border. Head of state Doe's decision to close the border was a reaction to a Sierra Leone newspaper report alleging that he, Doe, had killed his wife. President Stevens noted that the Liberian head of state [words indistinct] and (?described) the newspaper report as a malicious piece of reporting aimed at discrediting his regime and bringing people to disrepute. President Stevens deplored what he described as irresponsible journalism by a section of the Sierra Leone press, which he said, has resulted in disrupting the cordial relations [words indistinct] between the sister states of Sierra Leone and Liberia. [Words indistinct] behind it was what he described as a wicked and vicious lie about him, carried in a certain local newspaper which he said, was purely based on vicious and irresponsible imagination. My government and I very much cherish and welcome constructive criticism, but when press freedom is abused and misused by vicious and malicious reports, aimed at vilifying and inciting people, then we as a government are bound to take prompt action to [words indistinct] must be adapted to one's environment in due cognizance of one's own traditions in a respectable society. But any attempt to [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct].

GOVERNMENT WANTS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH LIBERIA

AB222024 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] A government release issued today states that a message has been received from the Liberian head of state, Commander Samuel Kanyon Doe to the effect of the Government of the Republic of Liberia has, with immediate effect, closed her borders with Sierra Leone, by land, sea, and air. The Liberian Government's decision, according to the communication received, came as a result of an article published in a local newspaper, PROGRESS, captioned "Samuel Doe Kills Wife." Immediately following the receipt of the Liberian head of state's communication, the Government of Sierra Leone has today sent an (?urgent) message to the head of state of Liberia, expressing astonishment at the very grave allegation made by the newspaper PROGRESS, which has resulted in the closure of Liberia's borders with Sierra Leone. The government, the statement said, is giving very serious attention to the matter but in the meantime in keeping with (?relations) of good neighborliness and brotherhood between the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as is (?seen) in the Mano River Union, it is hoped that the Government of Liberia will reconsider resuming normal intercourse with Sierra Leone.

Another release from Freetown said that Mr (Pode Ijehame), editor of THE PROGRESS paper, was today detained by the police on Article (?19) subsection 15 of the Consitution of [words indistinct].

UPPER VOLTA

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VISIT TO LIBYA

AB212044 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] An Upper Voltan delegation led by Captain Dr Ouattara returned to Ouagadougou this morning by the UTA regular flight. The delegation had visited the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamamiriyah within the framework of exchanges to promote cooperation relations in the economic and social fields between the two states.

RSA-ANGOLA TALKS TO RESUME IN CAPE VERDE 23 FEB

AB230947 Paris AFP in French 0859 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Cape Town, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The second round of negotiations between South Africa and Angola to try to achieve a settlement in Namibia is expected to take place on Wednesday in Praia, capital of the Cape Verde Islands, reliable South African sources in Cape Town have indicated. The same sources have confirmed that the South African delegation, led by Hans van Dalsen, director general of foreign affairs, and including particularly an Army representative, left Cape Town Tuesday for the former Portuguese colony.

Angolan Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues Tito, who took part in the first round of negotiations 2 months ago, and Angolan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Venancio de Moura, the leader of the Angolan delegation, are already there according to reports from Lisbon and Praia.

The first round of negotiations took place on 8 December last year. The discussions took place at the governmental level on both sides since the South African delegation was led by Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, who was accompanied by Defense Minister General Magnus Malan.

Angolan Delegation Arrives

LD220030 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0001 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] An Angolan Government delegation comprised of the interior minister and two deputy ministers has arrived at the Cape Verde island of Sal for a second round of official talks with a South African Government delegation. The South African delegation is expected to arrive there early today, Wednesday.

Minister To Join Talks

AB231224 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Praia, Feb 23 (AFP) -- The second round of direct talks between Pretoria and Luanda on Namibia will begin this afternoon in the northern Cape Verdean island of Sal, official Cape Verde sources said here. The four-man South African delegation headed by Hans van Dalsen, the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, was expected here at 1200 GMT and was to meet with President Aristides Pereira. The Cape Verdean president had talks yesterday with the Angolan delegation led by Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues "Tito."

The official source said that Cape Verde Foreign Minister Silvino da Luz would also take part in the Angolan-South African talks in Sal, which is about 250 kms (156 miles) north of here. The first round of the bilateral negotations took place in Sal on December 7 and 8.

LESOTHO

SUSPECTED LLA AMMUNITION CACHES DISCOVERED

MB221456 Maseru Domestic Service in Sesotho 1100 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Lesotho Army has reported the discovery of an ammunition cache in the Buthabuthe District.

Some 5,000 rounds of ammunition for use with AK-47, .303, and German Mauser rifles were unearthed where they were buried long ago near the border with South Africa. The report says they were in a state of corrosion. It is believed that these arms were the property of rebels of the Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] who live in South Africa. At the beginning of this week, another arms cache was found in Khanyaku, in the Mokhotlong District near the border of Natal in South Africa, in the Qwa Qea Bantustan, where other rebels of the Lesotho Liberation Army train and live.

MOZAMBIQUE

FIVE GET DEATH SENTENCE FOR TERRORISM

MB221904 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Five Mozambican traitors have been sentenced to death and a British citizen has been jailed for 20 years at a trial in the city of Beira. They were among 40 people accused of involvement in sabotage and terrorism planned and organized by the South African minority regime. The five Mozambicans to die are (Auguto Andicen), (Jorge Lebombo), (Evid Alfredo), (Joao Dias), and (Dileep Nekit). They were convicted of belonging to the South Africa-backed bandit organization known as the Mozambique National Resistance [RNM]. One of the five, (Dileep Nekit), was the leader of a group of 200 terrorists and had killed 45 people.

The British citizen who was sentenced to 20 years in jail is Finlay Dean Hamilton, the director of a shipping company in Beira. The court found that he had prior knowledge of the sabotage attack on fuel tanks at Beira last December when more than $12 million worth of fuel was destroyed. Hamilton had warned his friends to stock up with petrol because there would soon be a shortage. He himself had planned to leave for South Africa in his private plane on the day of the attack. Hamilton was also convicted of concealing at his Beira home four pistols, three grenades, and 200 rounds of ammunition.

A total of nine Portuguese citizens were also on trial. Seven of them were released and two were jailed in connection with the fuel depot attack. They are Benjamin Fox, who was given 8 years, and Joao Fernandes, who got 4 years. One of the Portuguese who was acquiteed, Antonio Fonseca, had been accused of spreading anti-Mozambique propaganda and insulting government leaders. The court found these charges to be false and recommended that those who made the allegation should brought to court. Another of the Portuguese released is (Elsino Costa Pinto), who had been kidnapped by the RNM bandits last year. He was accused of making propaganda for the bandits after his release, but the court took into account that he had suffered great strain while held captive and had been drunk at the time of the alleged offenses.

Out of a total of 29 Mozambicans who appeared before the court accused of terrorism, sabotage, and collaborating with the bandits, nine were acquitted. Fifteen were given jail terms of between 6 and 15 years. One Zimbabwean on trial under similar charges was acquitted.

OFFICIAL: U.S. TO GIVE MISSILES TO PRETORIA

MB221234 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Yesterday, Marcelino dos Santos, secretary of the Frelimo party's Central Committee for Economic Matters, said that U.S. plans to install cruise missiles in South Africa are a cause of concern for all people of good will. Speaking to the Italian newspaper L'UNITA, Marcelino dos Santos said that the U.S. decision in putting at Pretoria's disposal the most modern weapons represents a serious threat to the peace and security not only of the African Continent but of the whole world as well.

Yesterday, Marcelino dos Santos returned to Maputo from Italy, where he received the certificate which confers the title of Roman citizen to Nelson Mandela, a leader of the South African ANC.

NAMIBIA

LANDMINE KILLS TWO WOMEN, THREE CHILDREN

MB221558 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] In Ovambo in northern South-West Africa/Namibia two women and three children have been killed in a landmine explosion. The acting secretary of the Ovambo administration, Mr (Frans Viljoen), said they were killed when the vehicle in which they were traveling struck a landmine near (Olaklongo) in northern Ovambo near the border with Angola. The names of those killed have not yet been released.

Earlier Mr (Viljoen) said 35 pupils and 3 teachers had been abducted from the (Uvwaludi) tribal area in the west of Ovambo and taken to Angola by SWAPO terrorists. The children were all from the (Fandi) secondary school, which is about 40 km south of the border with Angola. The South-West Africa Territory Force says the abduction is being investigated. The South-West Africa Territory Force says that 129 SWAPO terrorists have been killed in the northern South-West Africa, Namibia area. It issued a statement in Windhoek saying that the terrorists were killed in the latest attempt by SWAPO to infiltrate into the territory.

SOUTH AFRICA

HARARE: 1,000 DISSIDENTS REPORTED IN RSA

MB181806 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The Pretoria regime has officially disclosed that over 1,000 dissidents from Matabeleland are in South Africa. The SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, SAPA, reports that the Department of Foreign Affairs is screening the group, and 18 men whose status and backgound have failed to satisfy the authorities are being detained. The report says these dissidents entered racist South Africa through Botswana from western Zimbabwe. The report quotes Brigadier (A.P. Myeni), divisional police commissioner for the western Transvaal, as saying that the 18 men who are being detained will be charged with entering South Africa illegally. The Pretoria regime authorities have, however, not indicated what action will be taken on the rest of the 1,000 dissidents. Political observers in Botswana maintain that it is highly unlikely that these dissidents will be sent back, either to Botswana or Zimbabwe. The incident follows statements by government ministers that the Pretoria regime is training dissidents to be infiltrated into Zimbabwe for sabotage activities. Mozambican counterrevolutionary elements are also trained and deployed by racist South Africa.

THOUSANDS FLEE ZIMBABWE, SEEK ENTRY INTO RSA

MB171240 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 16 Feb 83 p 1

[By Andrew Walker]

[Text] Thousands of refugees have fled from Matabeleland, Zimbabwe, and have sought refuge in Botswana because of "indiscriminate massacres of tribespeople" carried out by the Zimbabwean Army, say reports reaching Pretoria.

Sources say that up to 1,000 refugees are gathered at Lobatse, waiting to cross the border into South Africa in search of jobs. Eighteen of them were arrested near the Botswana border and are being held at Klerksdorp. "About 5,000 refugees have flocked to Botswana in recent weeks. Many come from the Tsholotsho area of Matabeleland, where the Army is shooting all young men," said an informed source today.

Refugees, fleeing the "terrorist tactics" being used by the Zimbabwean Army in its crackdown on armed dissidents formerly belonging to Mr Joshua Nkomo's ZIPRA forces, are said to be housed in two Botswana refugee camps -- Dukwe and Selebi-Phikwe in the northeast of Botswana. Other refugees are said to have made their way to Lobatse in southern Botswana.

"This could create a problem for South Africa. Many refugees do not want to stay in the Botswana camps. Presumably they want to come to South Africa to seek employment," said the source. He said he understood that Zimbabwe has been putting pressure on Botswana in a bid to have the refugees repatriated. He said they had entered South Africa illegally. Over the past two years there had been a trickle of Zimbabweans illegally entering South Africa in search of work.

But the latest refugees had fled not becuase of unemployemnt but directly as a result of the Zimbabwean Army's actions. Other sources, who secretly visited Matabeleland last week, said the Zimbabwean Army was using search-and-destroy tactics against tribespeople in an effort to stamp out all support and possible recruits for dissident bands.

The Fifth Brigade is said to be using a "frozen area" scheme. In this tactic an area is selected for operations and all traffic on roads to and from the area is cut off. Police and government workers are banned from the area. The brigade then deploys units into the village communities and shoots on sight any man young enough to become a dissident.

Andre Meyerowitz reports from Cape Town that the minister of internal affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said today that "rumors of a large group of refugees heading for South Africa have not been confirmed. There is no evidence that a flow of refugees can be expected."

Referring to the 18 refugees held in Klerksdorp, the commissioner of police, General Mike Geldenhuys, said that their position was being investigated. He said they were not being treated as criminals but were being well cared for while their bona fides were established. A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said that the whole matter was being studied. He said: "Various government departments will coordinate their response to the issue. The Department of Foreign Affairs can, therefore, not say anything about possible future action in this regard."

The refugee affairs could post a dilemma for the government. If large numbers are planning to enter South Africa, the country would be hard pressed. On the other hand, for humanitarian reasons, the government would not want to be seen to be turning away people in dire fear of their lives.

BOTHA: RSA WOULD CONSIDER AID TO ANTICOMMUNISTS

MB180840 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES has quoted the South African prime minsiter, Mr P.W. Botha, as saying that South Africa would consider giving aid to anticommunist guerrillas in southern Africa if they asked for it because communism is bad for Africa. In an interview with the newspaper in Cape Town, Mr Botha said that if fellow Africans were threatened by the evils of communism, then South Africa would assist them if assistance was requested.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Mr Botha denied reports that South African agents had tried to destabilize governments in neighboring black countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho. Mr Botha said South Africa would be willing to enter into nonaggression pacts with neighbors, irrespective of their political systems. Such agreements would not allow either country to be used as a point of attack for insurgents. Mr Botha hinted that if neighboring countries allowed terrorist forces such as the ANC to use their territories as points from which to attack, South Africa could do the same.

SWAZILAND

NO CHANGE IN BORDER ADJUSTMENT POLICY

MB221840 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 21 Feb 83 p 20

[Text] Swazis as a nation are not going to be persuaded to drop or change overnight good and well-tested policies of the late King Sobhuza II.

The border adjustment talks between Swaziland and South Africa are continuing and nothing has changed, Foreign Minister R.V. Dlamini has declared. He was replying to questions on the present silence on the land issue and if this meant that the matter was 'on ice'. "Let no one be fooled by the silence of the Swazis," Mr Dlamini said.

He declared: "Swazis as a nation are not going to be persuaded to drop or change overnight good and well-tested policies of our late king for any new ideological dreams which may well turn out to be a horrible nightmare not only for Swaziland, but for the whole of southern Africa."

"Let those who are against us know that they are against the Swazi nation whose desire it is that the border adjustment talks go on until the whole of our Swazi people and land are once again reunited," Mr. Dlamini emphasised.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE: MILITARY TO STAY IN MATABELELAND

AB181625 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 18 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Robert Mugabe today stated his government will continue to use military force in southwestern Zimbabwe where he said dissidents are waging a "tribal war" to put opposition leader Joshua Nkomo into power. Mr Mugabe also said his government will set up "people's militias" in rural areas to combat dissidents.

Speaking to a crowd of his supporters in eastern Zimbabwe, Mr Mugabe said that the anti-government dissidents -- who have been carrying out killings, robberies and vandalism of government targets for the past year -- have the sole aim of putting Mr. Nkomo into power through unconstitutional means, according to the official news agency ZIANA.

Mr Mugabe said the Army's Fifth Brigade will remain in south-western Zimbabwe, known as Matabeleland, until the dissident problem is cleared up. The Fifth Brigade has been blamed by Mr Nkomo and other politicians for killing hundreds of civilians in the area during anti-dissident operations in the southwest in the past month. Minister of State for Defence Sydney Sekeramayi has flatly denied the charges but said that the Army has killed "a good number" of dissidents and that "probably some innocents" have been killed too.

The Fifth Brigade, formed almost exclusively of Shona-speaking men from Mr. Mugabe's party, has been leading the government's anti-dissident campaign in Matabeleland. Mr Nkomo and others claim that the brigade is victimising civilians of the minority Ndebele people, who largely support Mr Nkomo's opposition party.

Mr Mugabe said today during his speaking tour in the eastern district, a stronghold of his party, that the Army would remain in Matabeleland because the dissidents "must be destroyed like vermin". He said that people's militias will be trained and armed in rural areas to fight the dissidents. Already 750 people are being trained to set up millitias and the government has a target of 1,500 instructors, he revealed.

"The people's militias, who would include mothers and fathers, would fire their guns even in the crop fields at any dissident that dared show his head to disrupt their hard-won independence," Mr Mugabe said. He did not say if the militias would be set up in Matabeleland itself, where the government has repeatedly criticised the people for aiding the dissidents. The country's problem of sporadic violence from anti-government rebels has been going on since last February when Mr Nkomo was sacked from the Cabinet and his two top military aides were arrested for allegedly plotting against the government. The continuing violence, which has taken about 100 lives, and the harsh Army reaction to it has increased political and ethnic tensions in the country.

MUGABE ENDS 3-DAY VISIT, WARNS OF ZAPU PLOT

MB191844 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, wound up his 3-day visit to Manicaland by addressing supporters who gathered to bid him farewell in Inyanga. Comrade Mugabe said that although Joshua Nkomo denies any knowledge about the caching of arms, the nature in which they were hidden shows a definite plan master-minded by the highest level in ZAPU. He said even some dissidents who knew nothing about the plan admit knowledge of a ZAPU plan to overthrow the government by force. Comrade Mugabe said the government would like to see all of Zimbabweans carrying out their peaceful labor as farmers and workers with no interference from the dissidents. The prime minister warned that anyone who starts a war will be pursued by government forces to the hilt.

EMBASSY DENIES NKOMO HAS VISA FOR CSSR

LD220602 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Czech Embassy in Harare has disclosed that the ZAPU leader Dr Nkomo has no visa for Czechoslovakia and his statement that he wanted to attend a meeting in Prague is false. In an interview with THE HERALD yesterday, an official of the Czech Embassy said: "We don't have any information that Dr Nkomo was invited to attend the World Peace Council meeting in Prague.

A government spokesman said in Harare yesterday that the government had evidence that Dr Nkomo was scheduled to address a series of news conferences in racist South Africa on his trip there. The spokesman said arrangements had been made for Dr Nkomo to meet South African journalists, some of whom were already waiting for him outside Jan Smuts Airport when he was prevented from making the trip on Saturday. He said the government has proof that Dr Nkomo was not travelling on a ticket issued under his name. The spokesman said the ZAPU leader is not the vice-president of the World Peace Council as claimed in an earlier report and that no meeting of this organization is taking place in Prague until the second week of June.

In an interview yesterday Dr Nkomo denied that he tried to travel incognito. He said it was not a question of his not being allowed to travel, but that he should inform certain organs of the government about his intentions.

NEWSWEEK REPORTER'S CREDENTIALS WITHDRAWN

MB190905 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The Ministry of Information, Posts and Telecommunications yesterday withdrew the accreditation of Mr Holgar Jensen, a foreign correspondent of NEWSWEEK magazine who is based in Johannesburg. The minister of information, posts and telecommunications, Comrade Shamuyariara, last night issued the following statement in connection with the incident:

The action has been taken in connection with Mr Jensen's persistent, false, and exaggerated reports on Zimbabwe since independence. The report titled, "Bury Your Dead and Run," published in the current issue of NEWSWEEK, has exhausted the government's patience. The report catalogs events that are utterly false and are a fabrication of Mr Jensen's imagination.

Comrade Shamuyariara spent the last 2 days in Bulawayo checking the allegations by Mr Jensen and found every one of them to be false and totally unfounded.

MINISTER: TRANSFORMATION DEMANDS HARD WORK

MB221645 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The minister of local government and town planning, Comrade Chikowore, said the second year of national transformation demands hard work if government development projects are to succeed. The minister, who was addressing a rally at Vengezi resettlement scheme near Kadoma, said there must be collective and positive action through self-reliance projects. Comrade Chikowore said this will help to achieve maximum development from limited resources.